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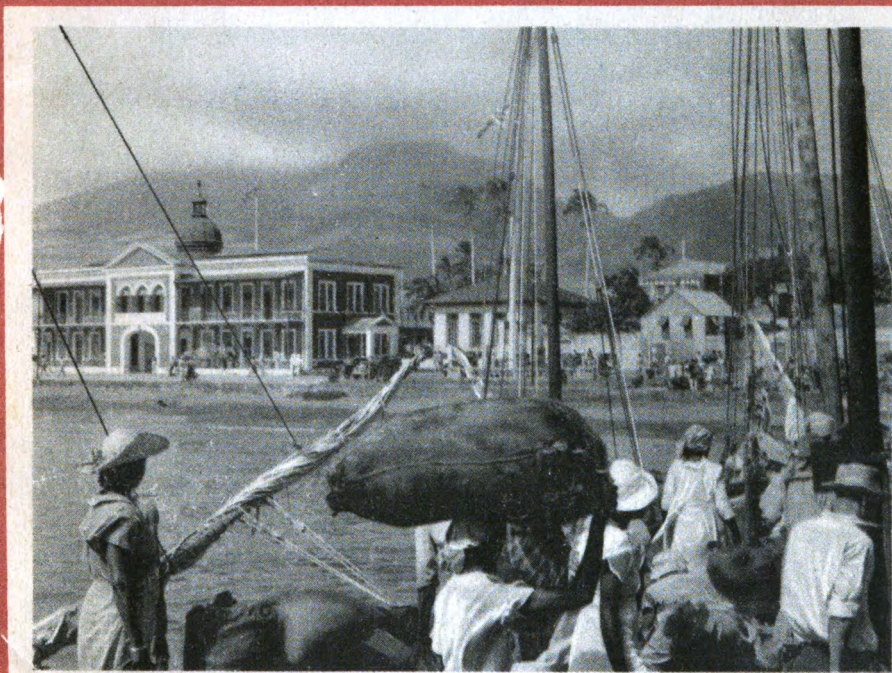
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*COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS*

# Leeward Islands

1947



*LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE*

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**THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS**  
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after  
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those  
relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates  
for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with  
some additions, be the same as for the previous year  
(see list on cover page 3).



COLONIAL OFFICE

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1947

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1949

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The cover illustration shows the Treasury Building from  
Basseterre Pier ; Nevis boats in foreground

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## PART I

### Review of 1938-46

*Attention 2 Aug 49*  
PUBLICATION of the Annual Report on the Leeward Islands for 1938 was interrupted by the outbreak of war. The following paragraphs summarise the more important changes and developments in the Colony during the nine years preceding 1st January, 1947.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL

On 1st January, 1940, the Island of Dominica, a Presidency of the Leeward Islands since the set-up of the Federation in 1871, was transferred in accordance with the wishes of its inhabitants to the jurisdiction of the Governor of the Windward Islands. On the same date, the Supreme Courts of the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands were combined into a single Supreme Court, with jurisdiction throughout the two groups. In 1943, the Office of the Colonial Secretary, Leeward Islands, was revived, and several new federal posts were created (Director of Agriculture, Federal Education Officer, Federal Senior Medical Officer, etc.). In 1945, the Colony, in common with all other British territories in the Caribbean, was invited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to consider federation in the West Indies. The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands declared itself in favour of the aim of West Indian Federation. In April, 1946, the General Legislative Council and the Legislative Councils of the Presidencies accepted in principle the terms of the Secretary of State's despatch of 14th March, 1946, on the closer union of the Windward and Leeward Islands.

#### IMPACT OF THE WAR

*31/12/44*  
*1941*  
Mercifully remote from any theatre of active hostilities, the Colony's only direct experience of war-time hardship was a temporary shortage of imported foodstuffs in 1942 caused by the depredation of German submarines in the Caribbean Sea and its approaches. From September, 1939, onwards, there was a steady flow of volunteers from the islands for service in the armed forces of the Crown, both in the United Kingdom and in Canada; and in 1943, a Leeward Islands Battalion was recruited without difficulty from the local population and trained with the help of Imperial officers. The battalion sent a contingent to the Caribbean Regiment which proceeded to the Mediterranean in 1944, and its disbandment at the end of the war was a matter of general regret.



## UNITED STATES BASES

In 1941, as part of a general agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America, military and naval air bases were established in Antigua on lands leased to the United States Government for 99 years. The construction and maintenance of these bases provided well-paid employment for many hundreds of Antiguans, and attracted labour from the other Presidencies. Apart from a few minor incidents during the period of construction which were as insignificant as they were inevitable, relations between Americans and Leeward Islanders were harmonious at all levels throughout the war.

## ECONOMY

The Colony's position was strengthened during the war years. The purchase by His Majesty's Government of all the sugar and sea island cotton produced in the islands did much to stabilise agricultural conditions at a remunerative level. The mercantile community was never more prosperous, the wage-earner benefited by steady employment and increased rates of pay to compensate for the rising cost of living. A Salaries Commission appointed in 1944 adjusted the scales of remuneration in all ranks of the Government service. The planting of local food-stuffs was expanded in all Presidencies.

## LABOUR

In the field of industrial relations remarkable advances were made during the period under review. Legislation was enacted dealing with workmen's compensation, a minimum wage, trade unions, trades disputes, employment of children and the recruiting of workers. A Federal Labour Department was created and rapidly showed its usefulness. The Antigua Trades and Labour Union attained a membership estimated at 10,000 (in a population of 42,000), and the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Union displayed considerable activity. Wage agreements were successfully negotiated; at the two sugar factories in 1946 the general level of wages showed increases of approximately 70 per cent (Antigua) and 50 per cent (St. Kitts) over those prevailing in 1939.

## DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Following on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, 1938-39, His Majesty's Government announced in 1940 the creation of a Development and Welfare Fund, and a Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies was appointed in 1941. The impetus which this move accorded to active planning for the betterment of the Leeward Islands can hardly be over-estimated. With a considerable measure of assistance from the skilled staff attached to the Comptroller, ambitious and far-reaching programmes were drawn up in every island with the dual objects of overtaking arrears in the standard of social services and ensuring the better utilisation of the natural resources—primarily agricultural—of the different islands. At the end of 1945 came the announcement of the total allocation to the Colony under the Colonial Development and Welfare

Act of £1,200,000. It is to be regretted that owing to the large schemes planned before this allocation was announced considerable difficulty is being experienced in preparing a 10-year plan to cover essential development works and their maintenance to 1956.

## Review of 1947

### CONSTITUTIONAL

In January a Conference was held in St. Kitts to consider the question of closer union of the Windward and Leeward Islands, and later in the year a further conference was held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, at which the Secretary of State for the Colonies was Chairman, to consider the question of the federation of the West Indies.

### DEVELOPMENT

Important development works in 1947 included preliminary work on a new dam at Christian Valley, commencement of a new school at Green Bay, Antigua, the extension of the airfield and the building of a children's home in St. Kitts.

### LABOUR

Further wage increases were granted in 1947; this was made possible by the increase in the price for sugar paid by the Ministry of Food.

## PART II

### Chapter 1 : Population

A CENSUS was held in the Colony on 9th April, 1946. The previous census was held in April, 1921. The annual estimates of population between the years 1921 and 1946 were based on imperfect data and are incorrect.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1947, and the census returns for 1946 were as follows :—

	1947	1946
Antigua . . . . .	43,442	41,757
St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla	45,859	46,243
Montserrat . . . . .	13,283	14,333
Virgin Islands . . . . .	6,690	6,505
	<u>109,274</u>	<u>108,838</u>

### Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

#### WAGE RATES

Below are a selection of rates for identical tasks which are representative :

#### *Sugar Industry*

<i>Antigua Estates</i>	1946 <i>Cents</i>	1947 <i>Cents</i>
Cutting plant canes per line . . . . .	16*	19*
Packing per ton . . . . .	20*	20*
Ploughing task of 132 lines . . . . .	73-104†	93-107½†
Trenching : new trenches per rod . . . . .	5.2	5.37
Farming per acre (hand) . . . . .	104	118.66
Day's pay (other work not available) men . . . . .	73	101
Day's pay (other work not available) women . . . . .	46	53

\* Plus incentive bonus for regular attendance and output.

† Different rates for lands close ploughed and not close ploughed.

*Antigua Sugar Factory.* In 1947 the wages agreement at the sugar factory provided for the consolidation of 50 per cent cost of living bonus into basic wages to which an adjusting bonus of 7½ per cent was applied. The cash bonus payable at Christmas remained at 2½ per cent and the retirement bonus was increased to 5 per cent.



<i>St. Kitts-Nevis Estates</i>	1946 <i>Cents</i>	1947 <i>Cents</i>
Cutting cane per ton . . . . .	45	51
Carting " " . . . . .	28	31
Packing " " . . . . .	27	30
Ploughmen per acre . . . . .	88-100	100-112
Ploughmen per day . . . . .	62	70
Farming per acre . . . . .	56-64	63-72

The deferred payment distribution for 1947 amounted to 12.9 per cent of the gross earnings.

*St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory.* The cost of living allowance paid in 1946 was added to the basic wage as from 24th January, 1947, and an addition of 12½ per cent was paid.

### *Waterfront Workers*

Following a series of joint meetings under the chairmanship of the Federal Labour Officer, an agreement setting out wages and working conditions on the waterfront at Basseterre, St. Kitts, was signed on 13th March. This is the first formal agreement negotiated by the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union in regard to waterfront workers, and incorporated an increase of 10 per cent on the 1946 rates.

### *Cotton*

Rates for harvesting the cotton crop for 1947 were as under :

	<i>Antigua</i>	<i>St. Kitts*</i>	<i>Montserrat</i>
Picking . . . . .	2c. per lb.	7c. for 5 lb.	1c. per lb.
Cleaning . . . . .	1c. per lb.	40c. per 100 lb.	
Drying . . . . .	53c. females \$1.01 males per 8 hours	1946 rate plus 12½ per cent	
Pulling . . . . .	1½c. per 100 linear feet	67½c. and 81c. per acre	
Heaping and Burning . . . . .	\$1.00 per acre	27c. per acre	
Cleaning up Field . . . . .	Day's pay as drying	\$1.35 per acre	

*Rates  
not  
available*

\* Subject to addition at end of year by participation in Deferred Payment distribution (12.9 per cent. on gross earnings in 1947).

### COST OF LIVING

The cost of living indices for Antigua and St. Kitts in 1945, 1946 and 1947 were as follows (1939 = 100) :

	<i>Antigua</i>	<i>St. Kitts</i>
September, 1945 . . . . .	162	173
September, 1946 . . . . .	166	180
March, 1947 . . . . .	172	180
June, 1947 . . . . .	176	186
September, 1947 . . . . .	186	192

### LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The establishment of the Federal Department of Labour comprised the Federal Labour Officer, Assistant Federal Labour Officer, one senior clerk, two junior clerks and two messengers. There were offices of the

department in Antigua and St. Kitts. The Assistant Federal Labour Officer was appointed in April, 1947. During the period 5th April to 3rd July when the Federal Labour Officer was on vacation, a temporary Acting Assistant Federal Labour Officer was appointed to act in St. Kitts.

In July the Federal Labour Officer attended a conference in Jamaica about the recruitment of West Indian labour, following notification from the U.S. Government that they were going to abandon their official programme of recruitment. In December a delegation headed by His Honour L. C. Greening, Administrator, St. Kitts-Nevis, and including Hon. V. C. Bird and the Federal Labour Officer, visited Jamaica and the U.S.A. to endeavour to arrange for the recruitment of labour from this Colony. The mission was successful and from 28th to 31st December the Federal Labour Officer again visited Jamaica to complete arrangements with the representatives of a Florida Corporation for men to be selected in January, 1948.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union experienced a remarkable increase in membership following the visit to the Colony of a large number of West Indian labour leaders to attend meetings of the Caribbean Labour Congress and of the Closer Union Conference. Later in the year the union embarked on a militant campaign to secure a "closed shop" for union members in the sugar industry and on the waterfront. Mr. W. Bissell, Deputy Commissioner of Labour, British Guiana, visited St. Kitts in March and effected a temporary settlement but feeling continued to run high. Unremitting efforts on the part of the Labour Department officials resulted in a slight improvement in the latter months of the year when it was again possible to arrange joint meetings between the union leaders and representatives of the employers. There were 10 disputes in Antigua and 52 in St. Kitts requiring the attention of the Labour Department.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Union</i>	<i>Date Registered</i>	<i>Membership December, 1946</i>	<i>Membership December, 1947</i>	<i>On Roll December, 1947</i>
St. Christopher Sugar Producers' Association	Employers' Association	6.11.40	25	20	25
St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union	For workers in any trade or industry	15.5.40	328	2,770	8,851
Antigua Trades and Labour Union	For workers in any trade or industry	2.3.40	2,768	3,873	9,473
Montserrat Trades and Labour Union	For workers in any trade or industry	28.5.46	1,188	237	1,858

## LEGISLATION

The principal legislation affecting labour passed in the year under review was an amendment (No. 2 of 1947) of the Trades Union Act (No. 16 of 1939). This amendment provided a clause which replaced Section 7 on peaceful picketing and repealed Sections 8 and 35 dealing with illegal strikes and lockouts and contributions by members to political funds.

Ordinances were passed in Antigua and St. Kitts (No. 10 of 1947 Antigua and No. 7 of 1947 St. Kitts) imposing a cess on sugar exported. These ordinances apportion the cess of \$13.20 between three funds: the Sugar Industry Price Stabilisation Fund, the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund and the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund respectively in each Presidency.

In St. Kitts new regulations governing the operations of porters and boatmen in the Presidency made under Section 13 of the Porters' and Boatmen's Ordinance of 1908 became effective on 21st July, 1947. The new regulations superseded those made in 1923.

Enabling ordinances were passed in Antigua and St. Kitts to allow the enactment of factory legislation by the General Legislative Council. The Factory Inspector, Jamaica, visited this Colony from 26th February to 14th April, 1947. He inspected factories and ginneries in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat and submitted a comprehensive report to Government.

# Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

## PRESIDENTIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Main Heads	Antigua		St. Kitts-Nevis		Montserrat		Virgin Islands	
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
REVENUE								
Customs, etc. . . . .	138,690	103,208	156,380	112,307	23,992	22,742	4,407	4,749
Taxes, etc. . . . .	48,200	41,773	74,866	72,995	3,667	6,394	2,241	1,895
Fees of Court, etc. . . . .	21,039	12,887	9,218	7,230	9,539	6,543	890	1,633
Post Office, etc. . . . .	30,968	23,292	23,610	27,531	8,799	10,944	5,716	8,853
EXPENDITURE								
Public Debt . . . . .	4,673	5,527	2,725	2,643	813	786	—	—
Pensions . . . . .	7,690	7,560	9,338	7,773	2,014	3,957	569	599
Federal Services . . . . .	38,655	34,509	37,024	30,281	9,318	8,007	1,977	1,584
Administration . . . . .	5,248	4,964	5,805	4,950	2,762	2,344	5,300	4,986
Water Services . . . . .	10,567	7,113	4,238	2,224	691	607	49	—
Medical Services . . . . .	12,921	11,293	18,844	16,034	2,022	2,954	2,395	2,823
Hospital and Charitable Institutes	30,827	27,571	27,147	24,166	6,576	5,514	*	*
Education . . . . .	23,094	21,086	30,362	26,619	12,633	9,910	5,423	4,362
Post Office . . . . .	17,655	14,007	11,691	10,488	3,115	2,360	232	315
Public Works (Recurrent and Extraordinary) . . . . .	43,167	33,173	40,293	28,480	16,463	975	3,286	967
TOTAL REVENUE . . . . .	384,926	384,103	378,885	330,177	90,899	90,850	17,488	31,443
TOTAL EXPENDITURE . . . . .	362,331	348,869	310,224	287,231	100,008	86,267	26,199	32,390

**PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION**  
**FEDERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**

11

		1947	1946
		<i>Revised Estimate</i>	<i>Actual Revenue</i>
		£	£
I.	(1) Contributions from Presidencies	86,764	74,084
	(2) Contributions from Dominica (pensions)	1,400	926
II.	Fees of Court or Office, etc. :		
	(1) Fees of Court	400	412
	1. West India Court of Appeal	1	—
	(2) Public Departments :		
	1. Printing Office	1,500	1,952
	2. Post Office	4,000	9,340
III.	Miscellaneous Receipts	600	981
	Total Local Revenue	94,665	87,695
IV.	Development and Welfare	166,610	61,663
	TOTAL REVENUE	<u>261,275</u>	<u>149,358</u>

		1947	1946
		<i>Revised Estimate</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure</i>
		£	£
I.	Pensions	7,500	6,549
II.	Governor	4,200	4,779
III.	Secretariat	6,300	5,809
IV.	Labour	—	—
V.	Treasury	130	130
VI.	Audit	3,540	2,539
VII.	Legal	7,500	5,745
VIII.	Police	45,783	43,771
IX.	Printing	3,700	2,958
X.	Agriculture	2,300	1,577
XI.	Education	2,000	1,731
XII.	Medical	500	529
XIII.	Post Office	150	216
XIV.	Miscellaneous	11,062	14,121
	Total Local Expenditure	94,665	90,454
XV.	Development and Welfare	166,610	58,904
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>261,275</u>	<u>149,358</u>

**PUBLIC DEBT**

<i>Public Debt</i>	<i>Local Loans</i>	<i>Development and Welfare Loans</i>	<i>Totals</i>
	£	£	£
Antigua	41,805	43,609	85,414
St. Kitts-Nevis	20,000	15,555	35,555
Montserrat	—	26,510	26,510
Virgin Islands	—	—	—
	<u>£61,805</u>	<u>£85,674</u>	<u>£147,479</u>



## EXCESS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES

1947

<i>Antigua</i>	<i>St. Kitts-Nevis</i>	<i>Montserrat</i>	<i>Virgin Islands</i>	<i>Total</i>
£	(estimated) £	(after receipt of grant-in-aid) £	£	£
74,840	171,403	2,487	4,573	253,303

## MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

*Customs Tariffs*

Legislation governing customs tariffs is presidential and there are therefore four different customs tariffs in this Colony. The rates of import duties and surtax vary in the various Presidencies, but it can be stated generally that the basic preferential rate is 10 per cent *ad valorem* whilst the general or non-preferential rate is 15 per cent *ad valorem*. Import duty is charged on some goods at specific and not *ad valorem* rates. The rates of import duty on luxury goods are at higher rates than those on essential supplies.

Exemptions from import duty include articles imported for Government use, agricultural implements, tools and machinery, fertilisers and packages to be used for the exportation of produce.

*Income Tax*

Rates of income tax are uniform throughout the Colony by an Ordinance which came into effect on 1st January, 1946. Income tax is payable on the chargeable income of individuals at various rates from 6d. in the £ for the first £100 up to 13s. 6d. in the £ for chargeable incomes over £15,000. Income tax legislation is based on the standard colonial pattern. The income tax payable on different rates of income are as follows :

<i>Income</i> £	<i>Single Man</i>			<i>Married Man</i>			<i>Married Man</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
200	2	0	0		10	0		—	
300	6	0	0	3	0	0	15	0	
400	12	0	0	7	10	0	3	10	0
500	20	0	0	14	5	0	8	5	0
600	30	0	0	23	0	0	15	0	0
700	42	0	0	33	15	0	24	0	0
800	56	10	0	46	10	0	35	0	0
900	74	10	0	62	10	0	48	0	0
1,000	92	10	0	80	10	0	64	10	0
1,500	237	10	0	216	10	0	188	10	0
2,000	520	0	0	479	10	0	425	10	0
3,000	1,195	0	0	1,154	10	0	1,100	10	0
5,000	2,545	0	0	2,504	10	0	2,450	10	0
7,500	4,232	10	0	4,192	0	0	4,138	0	0
10,000	5,920	0	0	5,879	10	0	5,825	10	0
15,000	9,295	0	0	9,254	10	0	9,200	10	0

The tax on companies is at the rate of 5s. 6d. in the £.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank, American currency is also in circulation. Government accounts are kept in sterling but in banks and commercial houses the dollar system is used at a standard rate of 4s. 2d. to the dollar.

Notes of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago are in circulation in the Colony and their value at 31st December, 1947, was \$720,000 (£150,000).

Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) and the Royal Bank of Canada operate branches in the Colony. In addition there are Government Savings Banks in Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands with total deposits of over £250,000.

A Currency Conference was held in Barbados in May, 1946, at which a delegate from the Colony attended. Its recommendations for the establishment of the unified West Indian currency based on the dollar has been generally accepted but has not yet been implemented.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

### ANTIGUA

The following tables show the chief imports and exports during 1947 with corresponding figures for 1946:

#### Imports

<i>Items</i>	1946 £	1947 £
Butter and Butter Substitutes. . . . .	16,054	14,776
Fish (all) . . . . .	20,737	46,996
Cornmeal . . . . .	8,814	34,864
Flour . . . . .	76,106	96,052
Rice . . . . .	26,450	28,130
Wood and Timber (all kinds) . . . . .	74,153	76,376
Tobacco . . . . .	3,554	4,640
Apparel . . . . .	9,495	20,354
Cotton Manufactures . . . . .	41,388	77,669
Medicines and Drugs . . . . .	13,937	13,097
Railway Rolling Stock . . . . .	6,891	17,613
Manures and Fertilisers . . . . .	14,835	20,205
Metal Manufactures . . . . .	30,391	24,818
Sugar Machinery . . . . .	10,005	6,724

#### Exports

<i>Items</i>	1946 Quantity	1946 Value £	1947 Quantity	1947 Value £
Sugar (tons). . . . .	24,030	445,325	17,948	419,271
Molasses (gallons). . . . .	447,850	7,990	362,387	7,680
Cotton (lb.) . . . . .	282,581	19,668	83,952	9,274
Cotton Seed (lb.) . . . . .	655,720	1,640	174,800	297
Rum (gallons) . . . . .	30,118	7,186	39,143	9,651
Tamarinds (barrels) . . . . .	1,174	2,429	710	1,565
Tomatoes (lb.) . . . . .	5,229	125	5,629	164
Vegetables (lb.) . . . . .	10,134	126	4,000	41

### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Total imports for 1947 amounted to £931,436 as against £642,061 for 1946.

*Imports under countries of origin, 1939-47*

Year	U.K.	Canada	U.S.A.	Other British Countries	Other Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1939	102,504	66,917	45,184	35,221	43,438	293,264
1940	126,715	87,071	29,835	78,994	43,608	366,223
1941	88,056	125,337	28,085	67,744	42,326	351,548
1942	74,421	83,074	31,490	55,532	74,718	319,235
1943	91,641	142,554	43,460	117,854	40,557	436,066
1944	80,265	174,352	57,149	92,035	61,110	464,911
1945	131,767	227,723	88,944	131,230	55,507	635,171
1946	161,098	249,924	85,365	96,718	48,956	642,061
1947	180,356	370,102	193,706	164,966	22,306	931,436

During the war imports from non-sterling (exchange) countries were controlled under a system of licences authorised under the Emergency Powers Legislation, whereas imports from sterling countries were encouraged, including all importations from within the B.W.I. area. This system of control has continued since the cessation of hostilities.

The increase in value of imports since 1939 was entirely due to the continued rise in prices of imported goods, rather than to any increase in quantity of imports. It was for this reason also that revenue from customs duties was maintained throughout the war years.

The principal items imported into the Presidency during 1947 were as follows :

Commodity	Quantity	Value £
Butter and Butter Substitutes (lb.) . . . . .	197,869	17,096
Fish (lb.) . . . . .	895,658	29,055
Flour (bags of 100 lb.) . . . . .	66,824	121,106
Rice (lb.) . . . . .	32,532	22,659
Cornmeal (bags of 98 lb.) . . . . .	10,875	13,415
Grain (other kinds) . . . . .	—	5,095
Meat (lb.) . . . . .	373,799	21,562
Wood and Timber (ft.) . . . . .	1,400,011	49,676
Apparel . . . . .	—	10,029
Boots and Shoes (doz. pairs) . . . . .	4,586	22,657
Cotton Piece Goods (yd.) . . . . .	1,167,868	126,868
Oils (gallons) . . . . .	551,307	28,336

The total value of exports including re-exports in 1947 was £892,714.

*Exports under countries of destination, 1939-47*

Year	U.K.	Canada	Other British Countries	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
1939 . . . . .	326,669	91,694	7,456	1,471	427,290
1940 . . . . .	299,970	122,253	11,273	1,358	434,854
1941 . . . . .	375,721	146,383	25,944	5,177	553,225
1942 . . . . .	284,535	24,289	31,790	3,124	343,738
1943 . . . . .	260,742	—	87,204	229,231	577,177
1944 . . . . .	290,467	14,897	37,662	211,538	554,564
1945 . . . . .	472,629	69	45,505	139,234	657,437
1946 . . . . .	600,473	—	42,716	62,803	711,992
1947 . . . . .	793,519	—	58,690	40,505	892,714

The Ministry of Food bought the sugar and the Board of Trade the cotton produced in the Presidency during the war and provided the necessary shipping facilities to the United Kingdom and Canada. During 1943, 1944 and early 1945 sugar was also exported to Spain by direction of the Ministry of Food.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) sugar factory manufactured 34,357 tons of sugar during 1947 as compared with 33,512 tons in 1946. Of the 1947 crop, 31,600 tons were exported to the United Kingdom, the balance of the crop being retained in the island for local consumption. The U.K. Raw Cotton Commission took over the St. Kitts and Nevis cotton crops at a fixed price of 2s. 4d. per lb. f.o.b. for clean lint. Export of other commodities to Canada and U.S.A. was restricted by lack of shipping. Salt was exported within the Caribbean area. The total value of exports including re-exports amounted to £892,714 during 1947; the value of domestic exports amounted to £847,926, the principal items being as follows :

Commodity	1946		1947	
	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Sugar Crystals (tons)	30,739	599,485	31,631	756,572
Molasses (gallons)	680,612	15,577	574,786	13,490
Cotton (lb.)	196,175	15,581	462,015	48,240
Cotton Seed Oil (gallons)	2,624	779	2,400	760
Hides and Skins (value)		1,320		1,797
Vegetables (value)		326		101
Salt (barrels)	44,916	14,144	54,645	21,441

#### MONTSERRAT

During 1947 the main exports were to Empire countries. The war interrupted the development of a fruit and vegetable trade with Canada, especially in tomatoes. Sea island cotton forms the main export crop of the island and the entire clean lint production was taken over by the United Kingdom. Lime juice ranks second in importance. The provisional value of exports was £49,136.

During 1947 the main imports came from Empire countries but the United States supplied a larger proportion of piece-goods and electrical equipment than before the war. Trade has been very much curtailed owing to the scarcity of most goods and the need for trading in the sterling area as against the dollar countries. The provisional value of imports was £154,999.

The principal items imported in 1947 were :

	£
Fish	5,504
Grain	44,032
Wood and Timber	2,603
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	4,659
Cotton Goods	21,826
Oils	7,046

The island is dependent on imports for its supplies of flour, fish dried and salted, butter, sugar and cured meats and processed foodstuffs generally.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS

This Presidency continued in 1947 to import the bulk of its supplies from the neighbouring United States island of St. Thomas. Imports totalled £23,000 in value, the chief items being :

	Quantity	Value £
Butter (lb.) . . . . .	5,293	588
Grain (lb.) . . . . .	702,777	12,950
Meats (lb.) . . . . .	7,138	716
Wood and Timber, unmanufactured (ft.) . . . . .	98,459	4,417
Apparel (value) . . . . .		808
Boots, Shoes and Slippers (pairs) . . . . .	2,121	1,059
Cotton Goods . . . . .		1,989
Oils (gallons) . . . . .	11,334	651

Exports were almost entirely consigned to St. Thomas. Their total value was £29,500, the chief items being :

	£
Fish . . . . .	2,000
Agricultural Products, Vegetables, etc. . . . .	6,000
Cattle . . . . .	21,000

## Chapter 6 : Production

### AGRICULTURE

The following supplies were produced within the Colony :

#### Sugar

	Grey Crystal Tons	Muscovado Tons	Total Tons
Antigua . . . . .	22,736	100	22,836
St. Kitts . . . . .	34,357	—	34,357
	<u>57,093</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>57,193</u>

Sugar cane is grown by large-scale agriculturists (estates) and by the smallholder or peasant. The total area under this crop was about 21,000 acres. The average yield of canes per acre was 17·7 tons in Antigua and 26·13 tons in St. Kitts.

#### Cotton

	Clean Lint lb.	Stains lb.	Total lb.
Antigua* . . . . .	77,376	10,525	87,901
St. Kitts-Nevis† . . . . .	253,818	41,444	295,262
Montserrat . . . . .	253,008	30,500	283,508
	<u>584,202</u>	<u>82,469</u>	<u>666,671</u>

\*Includes Barbuda.

†Includes Anguilla.



This crop is produced principally by peasants, there being few large cotton-growing estates with the exception of those in Montserrat.

*Citrus Products* (including lime juice (raw), lime oil distilled, lime oil ecuelled).

No accurate figures are obtainable as to production of oranges and limes ; the following are the exports of certain products : 2,271 lb. fresh limes, 55,620 gallons raw lime juice, 114 lb. distilled lime oil, 304 lb. ecuelled lime oil.

*Food Crops.* No accurate and individual presidential returns for food production are available. Principal crops include corn, sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, peas, beans, bananas, tomatoes, peanuts and carrots.

In Antigua the total acreage under food crops is estimated to have averaged about 1,200 acres. In St. Kitts, all sugar estates were again required to plant and cultivate vegetables on a total of at least 10 per cent of the total acreage of sugar cultivation, or approximately 1,000 acres, but production was limited by bad weather and by labour disturbances.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Activities in this connection within the Colony are directed towards (a) cattle for meat, milk and transport on estates ; (b) sheep, goats, swines and poultry for food ; (c) horses for transport.

Animal health was good throughout the year, no serious epidemics being recorded.

There is a developed livestock industry in the Virgin Islands with the United States island of St. Thomas as a market. During the year the following numbers were shipped :

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Value</i>
1,053	341	1,998	416	2	£20,813

The Agricultural Departments in the Presidencies continued to assist farmers by the provision of selected stud animals for breeding purposes, the distribution of breeding stock and the demonstration of approved principles of animal husbandry and management of pastures.

#### FORESTRY

All efforts are directed towards the conservation of forests in order to save soil and water. There is a very small amount of local timber produced for the building of boats and posts for fencing, etc.

#### FISHERIES

No figures are available for the catching of fish in the Colony. There are no organised fish markets and the fishing is undertaken entirely by individual fishermen.

#### MINING

This is confined entirely to Antigua, where small quantities of barytes are mined.

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

*Sugar and Rum*

There are three sugar factories in the Colony, two in Antigua, namely the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd., and the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd. (Montpelier Branch), and one in St. Kitts, the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company.

The price paid for canes in Antigua by the Antigua Sugar Factory was 32s. 4·34097d. per ton to contractors and 30s. 5d. to non-contractors. In St. Kitts the factory paid 31s. 2·4d. per ton to contractors and 28s. 6d. to non-contractors.

Sugar production is given on p. 16 ; the greater part of it was exported.

During the year 90,274 gallons of rum were produced by the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd.

*Cornmeal*

There are two small factories, one in Antigua and the other in St. Kitts, for the manufacture of cornmeal as well as the cracking and shelling of corn. The production of cornmeal is limited to the amount of corn bought by the Government Marketing Depots.

During the year the following corn products were produced and sold locally :

Cornmeal, 19,819 lb.

Corn Bran, 2,802 lb.

*Cotton*

All the seed cotton is ginned and baled locally. The clean lint is exported. The ginneries in most cases are operated by individual owners and there are two factories manufacturing cottonseed meal and cottonseed oil—this is all consumed within the Colony area. Production figures are given on p. 16.

*Citrus Products*

These are produced almost entirely in the island of Montserrat by the Montserrat Company Ltd., and all the products such as lime juice (raw), lime oil distilled, and lime oil ecuelled are exported.

*Mining*

This is confined to the supply of barytes which is purchased in Antigua by a buying agent and shipped in the raw state to Trinidad for processing. During the year 14 tons were exported to Trinidad.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

In St. Kitts the rainfall of 48·22 in. was 6 in. below the mean and poorly distributed ; in Antigua the rainfall of 28·84 in. was 13·36 in. below the mean.

All the principal food and export crops were adversely affected by the dry conditions. In the case of sugar, production was well maintained in 1947, but a sharp set-back is to be expected in 1948 as a result of the abnormally dry weather at the end of the year.

## STRIKES

There were labour troubles on the St. Kitts cane estates. First "go slow" tactics and then a general strike interfered with harvesting which was unduly prolonged. Concurrently there were numerous large cane fires.

## LAND TENURE

In local land tenure, there was no significant change. The Land Settlement and Development Board in Antigua purchased another property of 140 acres for the establishment of small-scale agriculture on a leasehold basis.

## CO-OPERATION

There are no co-operative societies in the Colony.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

## EDUCATION

## ANTIGUA

*Primary Education*

There are 25 Government primary schools in Antigua and one grant-aided school in Barbuda. New school buildings have been erected at All Saints, New Winthropes, Cobbs Cross and Potters providing increased accommodation for 920 pupils. The new buildings are spacious, airy and light with provision for practical work in handicraft and housecraft in the senior departments.

The enrolment in primary schools on 31st December, 1947, was 7,859 children with an average attendance of 4,912, approximately 63 per cent.

The number of teachers employed in primary schools was as follows :

Supervising Teachers	3
Head Teachers (fully certificated)	14
" " (under certificated)	11
Assistant Teachers (fully certificated)	8
" " (under certificated)	35
" " (uncertificated)	44
Pupil Teachers	116
Handicraft Teacher	1
Domestic Science Teacher	1

*Secondary Education*

There are five schools providing secondary education to the Cambridge School Certificate standard, of which three receive a Government grant. They had 696 pupils in 1947. Government scholarships are awarded to boys at the Antigua Grammar School, and to girls at the Antigua Girls' High School. During the year there were 25 Government scholars at the Antigua Grammar School and 25 at the Antigua Girls' High School.

### *Teachers*

The Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, the only teacher-training institution in the Colony, is run by the Moravian Church and receives a Government grant-in-aid, for which six Government scholars are kept in residence yearly. Male teachers receive training, after their pupil-teachership, at the Trinidad Training College for Teachers.

Selected pupils from primary schools intending to enter the primary teaching service are given a three-year course at a secondary school.

Teachers who had received training at special courses arranged for them in Trinidad assumed their new duties of directing and helping in-service teachers to improve the organisation in schools and quality of teaching. The supervising teachers did consistently good work throughout the year.

### *Adult Education*

There are General Improvement Organisations in some rural districts. These are organised and managed by the village communities and conduct evening classes and encourage healthy recreation. These organisations receive the support of Government, being provided with lamps and other equipment to assist in their work. These are voluntary organisations and deserve encouragement.

### ST. KITTS

#### *Primary Education*

There are 17 Government primary schools and one grant-aided school in St. Kitts; 10 Government primary schools in Nevis and five in Anguilla. Two new schools have been erected in St. Kitts and one in Nevis. These modern schools are airy and light with facilities for house-craft for girls, and handicraft for boys.

The enrolment at 31st December, 1947, was 9,354 children and the average attendance was 6,798.

The number of teachers employed in primary schools was as follows :

Supervising Teachers	.	.	.	.	4
Head Teachers (fully certificated)	.	.	.	.	11
" " (under certificated)	.	.	.	.	21
Assistant Teachers (fully certificated)	.	.	.	.	41
" " (under certificated)	.	.	.	.	1
" " (uncertificated)	.	.	.	.	69
Pupil Teachers	.	.	.	.	135

#### *Secondary Education*

There are three secondary schools in St. Kitts providing education up to Cambridge School Certificate standard; they are attended by 210 pupils.

Fifteen Government scholarships are open to boys under 13 years of age at the St. Kitts Grammar School; and 16 Government scholarships are open to girls at the Girls' High School.

### *Teachers*

There are no facilities for teacher training in St. Kitts but female teachers are sent to the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College, Antigua; male teachers are sent to the Trinidad Training College for Teachers.

Pupils are selected from primary schools and given a three-year course of training before entering the primary teaching service.

Teachers who were selected for training and have completed their courses in supervisory and handicraft work assumed their duties during the year.

### *Adult Education*

Three centres of adult education exist, two in St. Kitts and one in Nevis.

## MONTSERRAT

### *Primary Education*

There are 12 schools in Montserrat which provide free primary education for children between the ages of five and 15. Eleven of these—six Anglican and five Methodist—passed on 1st January, 1945, from denominational to Government control. The remaining school is run by the Roman Catholic Church with the assistance of a Government grant-in-aid.

Two schools are housed in Government buildings and one in a church. The others meet in Anglican and Methodist school houses rented by the Government.

The number of pupils enrolled at 31st December, 1947, was 3,238 out of an estimated school population of 4,000, and the average attendance was 2,795. Attendance is compulsory for children between the ages of five and 12, but owing to inadequate staffing and lack of accommodation in the recent past the law has been in abeyance for some years.

### *Secondary Education*

There is one Government secondary school which prepares pupils for the Cambridge School Certificate. The following scholarships are offered to primary school children on the results of a competitive examination:

- (a) The local Government offers three scholarships annually tenable for three years in the first instance, but these may be extended annually, on the recommendation of the headmaster, provided the total duration of the scholarship does not exceed seven years.
- (b) The Montserrat Co. Ltd. offers one biennial scholarship, tenable for four years.
- (c) The Old Students Association awards one scholarship. No time limit is attached to the award, but a new scholarship does not commence until the old one terminates.

Pupils from the Montserrat Secondary School compete for the annual Government Leeward Islands Scholarship tenable at one of the universities in Great Britain. Both in 1946 and 1947 the scholarship was won by Montserrat pupils.



*Teachers*

At 31st December, 1947, the teaching establishment was made up as follows :

Certificated Teachers . . . . .	26
Uncertificated Teachers . . . . .	24
Pupil Teachers . . . . .	32

In addition to the above 19 pupil teachers were employed under C.D. & W. Scheme D.722.

Male teachers are trained at the Trinidad Training College for Teachers, while female teachers are trained at the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College, Antigua. The cost of training at Trinidad is met from presidential funds ; at Antigua, from federal funds.

*Adult Education*

There is no Social Welfare Officer, and no facilities exist for the teaching of illiterate adults.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

*Elementary Education*

There are 11 elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, seven of them situated in Tortola, two in Virgin Gorda, and one each in Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Nine schools are managed by the Methodist Church, one by the Anglican Church, and one by the Government. Only three schools meet in buildings erected for that purpose. The remaining eight are held in churches.

The total roll is 1,390 out of an estimated elementary school age population of 1,540. Attendance is compulsory for children over 5 and under 12 who live within a radius of two miles of a school, but in practice this law is not enforced. Attendance is voluntary from 12 to 15. The average attendance is 850.

*Secondary Education*

There is one Government school which provides secondary education. It has a roll of 53 children.

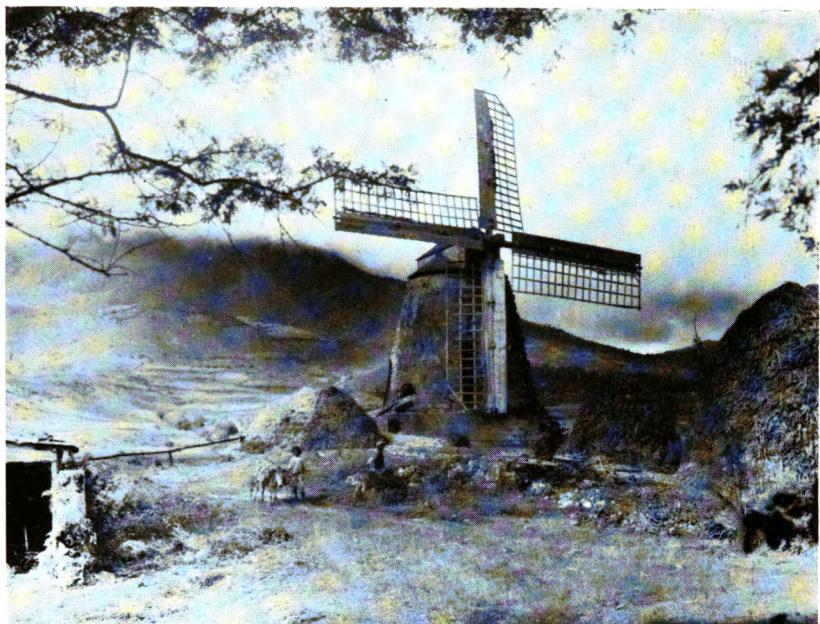
*Teachers*

The teachers are for the most part untrained and uncertificated. The total teaching staff is made up as follows :

Head Teachers (under certificated) . . . . .	11
Assistant Teachers (under certificated) . . . . .	1
"    "    (uncertificated) . . . . .	8
Pupil Teachers . . . . .	36

## HEALTH

During 1947 the Colony enjoyed the same freedom from serious epidemic diseases as for many years past. The year, however, was marked by epidemics of whooping cough and measles affecting each of the four Presidencies and by the unusual prevalence of influenza and pneumonia.



*With acknowledgments to Hayward Studios*

CLAY GHANT WINDMILL, NEVIS



*With acknowledgments to Hayward Studios*

BASSETTERRE VALLEY, ST. KITTS





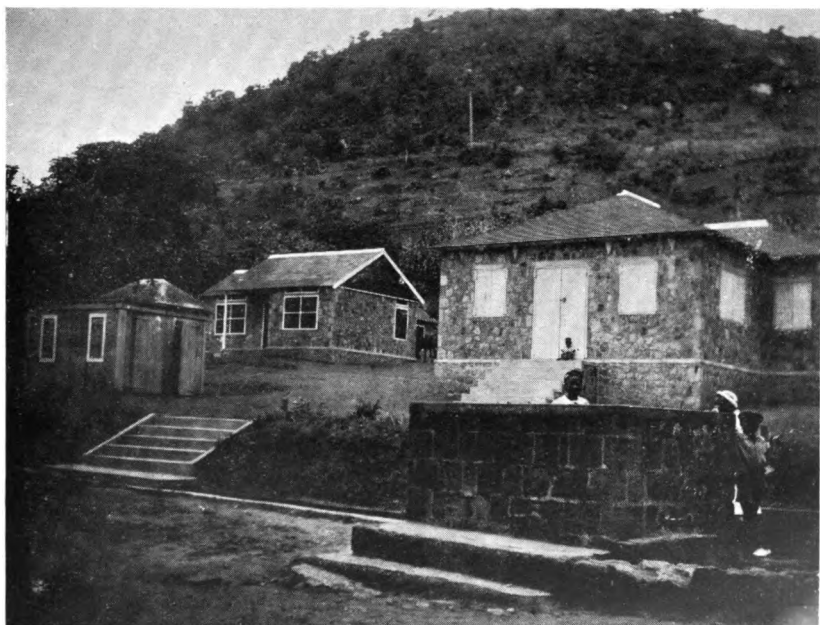
*With acknowledgments to Hayward Studios*  
**MODEL COTTAGES, ST. KITTS**



*With acknowledgments to Hayward Studios*  
**SCHOOL DRILL CLASS, WARNER PARK, ST. KITTS**

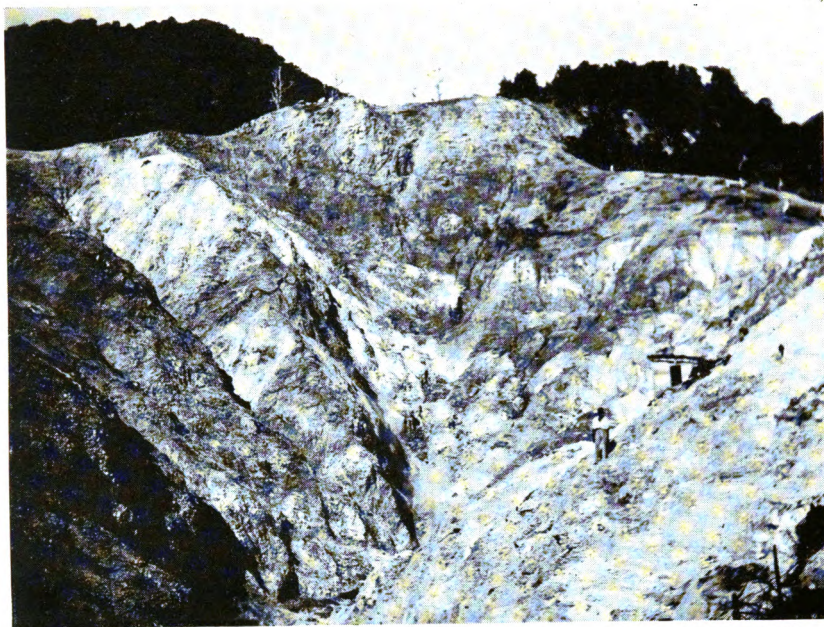


*With acknowledgments to J. W. R. Perkins*  
**SEA ISLAND COTTON PICKERS AT WORK: MONTSERRAT**



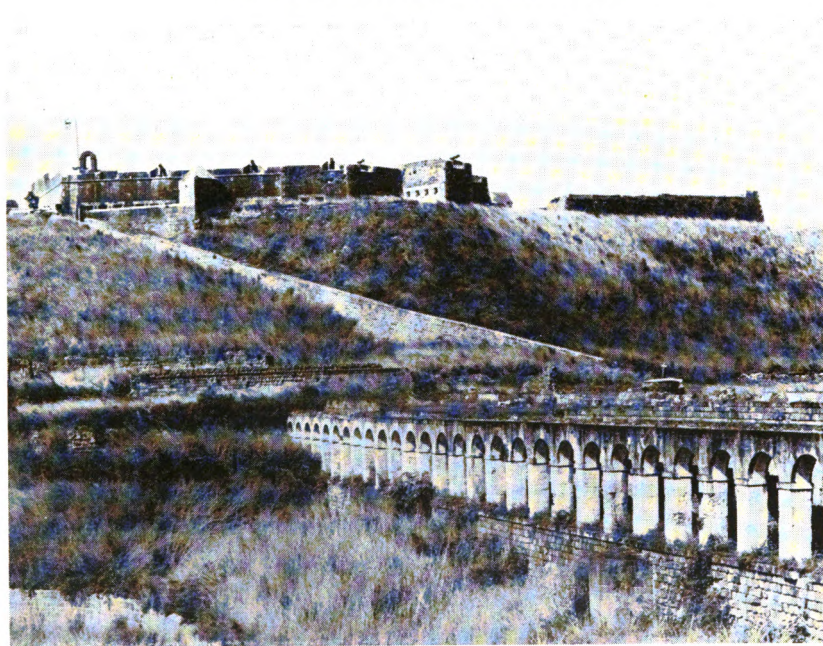
*With acknowledgments to J. W. R. Perkins*  
**HARRIS' HEALTH CENTRE UNIT: MONTSERRAT**





*With acknowledgments to J. W. R. Perkins*

# GAGE'S SOUFRIERE, MONTSERRAT



*With acknowledgments to Hayward Studios*

# BRIMSTONE HILL, ST. KITTS



Another unfavourable feature was the continuing high incidence of gastro-enteritis with a high mortality amongst children under two years of age. This affected St. Kitts, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands particularly, and was associated with or followed severe drought conditions. The incidence of malaria remained low, the only outbreak of importance occurring in one district in Antigua during the first quarter of the year.

The vital statistics showed a birth rate of 34.2 and a death rate of 17.5 per 1,000 of population, while the infant mortality rate was 123 per 1,000 live births. These rates were little different from the average for the previous six years, but the Colony death rate has been as low as 15.4 in 1945 and the infant mortality rate as low as 93 in 1943. In regard to individual Presidencies in 1946, Antigua showed the most favourable vital statistics with a death rate of 14.9 and an infant mortality rate of 82. Among individual islands, Nevis had the lowest infant mortality rate which was 69.

Respiratory diseases accounted for the greatest number of attendances at the Government dispensaries in the various Presidencies (about 20 per cent of all attendances), followed by diseases of the digestive system including diarrhoea and enteritis, worm diseases (mainly round-worm infestation in children), and diseases of the skin and cellular tissue. Of the infectious diseases, influenza, whooping cough and measles showed the highest incidence. The principal causes of death were old age, heart diseases, diarrhoea and enteritis, congenital malformations and diseases of early infancy, bronchitis and pneumonia, and intracranial lesions of vascular origin. These were followed by syphilis, tuberculosis, cancer and nephritis. About 100 deaths were ascribed to all forms of tuberculosis, 48 to whooping cough, 28 to dysentery, 26 to influenza, 17 to typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, 10 to tatanus, four each to malaria and measles, and two to diphtheria.

Medical care was provided in the Government hospitals and other institutions, and by a service of District Medical Officers in each of the Presidencies. A total of 325 hospital beds were maintained or about 3 per 1,000 of population, the principal hospitals being the Holberton at Antigua (91 beds), the Cunningham at St. Kitts (112 beds) the Glendon at Montserrat (48 beds) and the Alexandra at Nevis (42 beds). The number of admissions into these institutions in 1946 were 1,538, 1,193, 677 and 570 respectively, making a total of 3,978. Each of these hospitals has a surgeon in charge as Medical Superintendent and a European-trained matron responsible for the nursing care. At Antigua and St. Kitts there are modern X-ray installations at the hospitals and bacteriological laboratories attached to the hospitals. Smaller cottage hospitals are maintained at Tortola in the Virgin Islands, Sandy Point in St. Kitts, and Anguilla. At Antigua there is a Central Lunatic Asylum with accommodation for about 200 inmates, and at Antigua and St. Kitts there are Leper Homes each providing accommodation for about 50 inmates.

For medical care outside the institutions, the Colony is divided into 15 medical districts, each with a District Medical Officer in charge. Dispensaries are maintained at the principal centres of population and all

children of the labouring classes as well as aged and indigent persons are entitled to free treatment and medicines. A service of district nurse-midwives is also maintained, the personnel numbering 57 in 1946, with a District Matron or Superintendent of Midwives in charge at Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis. There is no Government Dental Service but a school Dental Officer is employed in Antigua on a part-time contract and in both 1945 and 1946 arrangements were made for him to pay two visits to Montserrat, each of six weeks duration, in order to give free dental treatment to school children. Similarly in St. Kitts-Nevis, a Dental Surgeon is employed on a part-time contract to treat school children and certain classes of estate labourers.

At the beginning of 1943, a Federal Senior Medical Officer was appointed for the Leeward Islands in accordance with a scheme approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940, and with a view to co-ordinating the presidential services and re-organising the medical service on the health unit system. Funds were also granted under the Act for public health improvement schemes in each of the four Presidencies. Difficulties connected with the war years, particularly in respect of shortages of personnel and of building materials, have delayed the completion of these schemes but by the end of 1946 three Medical Officers had been sent to North America for special courses of training in public health administration, 10 nurses had completed courses of training as Health Visitors, and two Sanitary Inspectors had been trained up to the standard of the Royal Sanitary Institute Examination, while six rural centres and eight out-post dispensaries had been constructed and were functioning in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. Maternal and child health clinics have been developed in each of these islands and home visiting and home nursing extended. A special feature of the Nevis programme was the appointment as District Matron for a period of three years of a Health Visitor with experience of public health work in the United Kingdom. Venereal disease clinics have also been developed in Antigua and St. Kitts, and more adequate supplies of arsenical and other drugs provided in each of the Presidencies for the free treatment of yaws, syphilis and gonorrhoea.

Other developments within recent years have included the establishment of the Malaria Control Unit and the Public Health Engineering Unit, both of which are shared with the Colonies of the Windward Islands. The Malaria Control Unit has been operating in Antigua since 1943, and while no major drainage work has been undertaken malaria surveys have provided valuable information and routine measures of control have been re-organised with very satisfactory results. Two sub-units of the Public Health Engineering Unit, the headquarters of which are in Grenada, were established in the Leeward Islands in 1945, one in Antigua to serve also Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, and the other in St. Kitts to serve St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. Their activities have included mapping of anopheline breeding areas, sanitary surveys of towns and villages, schools and other institutions, particularly in respect of latrine accommodation, and technical assistance in carrying out improvements in sanitation.

## HOUSING

## ANTIGUA

Houses in St. John occupied by the poorer sections are for the greatest part wooden buildings constructed with imported lumber. They are in the majority of cases in poor condition.

In the country districts, a timber-framed house is the chief type of dwelling owned and occupied by the greater number of the poorer section. Approximately 32 per cent are of sound construction and 58 per cent are unsound but capable of repair within economic limits.

The City and Country Authorities inspect them and enforce the sanitary laws but at present no plan of slum clearance has yet been initiated nor are there any schemes to assist owners to improve their dwellings.

Bills regarding town and country planning and slum clearance and housing are in draft and it is expected that, following their passage in the near future, steps will be taken to implement them both in the city and country.

## ST. KITTS-NEVIS

The majority of houses in the Presidency, in so far as the poorer sections of the population are concerned and particularly in rural areas, are owner occupied. House lots are in most cases the property of estate and other land proprietors and are rented at a nominal sum to the house owners.

Preliminary land and housing surveys have been executed in New Town, Basseterre, and 10 acres of land was purchased from Ponds Estate, which adjoins this area, with a view to implementing a re-development scheme in this extremely overcrowded portion of Basseterre. Two experimental houses have been constructed and a modified design evolved from the experience gained. Necessary legislation to authorise the putting into effect of this scheme and other similar schemes is now under consideration.

A survey of housing conditions of labourers resident on estate lands is now being undertaken with a view to ascertaining the degree of assistance required in order to bring their existing homes and house lots up to higher standards. This survey has been given the full support of the various owners of estates who have promised their sympathetic consideration on the question of security of land tenure.

Provision has been made in a suggested plan of development, operative over a period of 10 years, for the expenditure of approximately £189,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare presidential funds, by way of grant and loan, for financing various schemes in both urban and rural areas as a means of improving the standard of housing.

Existing legislation, such as the Medical Act, the Building Rules of 1946, etc., empower sanitary officers, the Building Board and other officials to inspect and ensure that prescribed sanitary and building standards are maintained.

## MONTSERRAT

The housing of the island is all privately owned and control is maintained by the operation of the Public Health Ordinance. Structurally the houses are built of imported lumber with galvanised roof covering or shingles. Local lumber is sometimes used. The houses vary in size and height—one or two storeys according to land accommodation and taste, with an average height of 12 ft. In recent years the better off people have shown a desire to avail themselves of improved housing wherever such is made available. The better class of house is well constructed and is usually supplied with a water-borne system of sewage disposal. The poorer inhabitants, however, are still found packed in tenement houses deficient in light and air.

One Housing Scheme, which was financed by a loan of £5,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, was concerned with the building of concrete houses on Government land. The scheme has been completed.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

## ANTIGUA

Following the appointment by Government of a Social Welfare Officer and the setting up of offices towards the end of 1946, draft estimates of expenditure for 1947 were submitted to cover a number of items of social welfare in the Presidency, but the Secretary of State's approval was reserved while the transfer of such expenditure to a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme was being considered. The necessary application was accordingly made to the Comptroller, but no reply has yet been received. The absence for the whole year of votes to finance these activities has resulted in a hold up of the work in some directions, but the loyalty and enthusiasm of the small staff have contributed in no small measure to overcoming many difficulties.

A Conference of Social Welfare Officers and Probation Officers from the British West Indian Colonies, held under the auspices of the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation at Barbados in March, 1947, for the purpose of reviewing the development of social welfare work in the area since the recommendations of the West India Royal Commission 1938-39, was attended by the Social Welfare Officer and the Probation Officer of the Presidency.

*Promotion of Community Life*

The Churches continue to play their special part in the building up of community life. During the year the Welfare Department continued to encourage the strengthening and extension of voluntary community service. A Social Welfare Advisory Committee was appointed by Government with the Social Welfare Officer as secretary, and with membership representative of such bodies as the Christian Council, Toc H, trade unions, G.I.O. (General Improvement Organisation) and Ladies' Welfare Committee, to co-ordinate the efforts undertaken in various directions to promote and improve community life.

Group organisations were encouraged and programmes of adult education, youth service, co-operative education, cottage industries development and social service generally were attempted through these agencies in both rural and urban areas. Government finances, unfortunately, did not allow of adequate financial support being given to the various efforts. However, grants from Colonial Development and Welfare were received and local voluntary contributions served, to some extent, to augment the limited funds provided from official sources.

### *Poor Relief*

Administration of the Poor Relief Service was carried out by the Board of Guardians which met monthly to consider applications for relief. Outdoor pauper relief was granted to destitute aged persons, orphans and destitute children, discharged lepers and other needy cases. Visits were paid by the Relieving Officer to investigate conditions of living, etc., of persons applying for relief.

The total number in receipt of relief was about 1,200, of which approximately 500 were children. The average assistance given was 2s. per fortnight paid from a total Government vote of £3,160. Private individuals and business firms contributed to a compassionate fund administered by the Board of Guardians. The boarding-out system was attempted on a small scale; and in order to help persons who live far from the city, the paying out of relief in the country districts was undertaken by ministers of religion.

### *Juvenile Delinquency and Probation Service*

The Probation Officer, Major W. E. Simons of the Salvation Army, has continued to carry on probation work among both adult and juvenile offenders. Seven adults and one juvenile were added to the list of probationers. The Probation Service was also utilised by the courts to some extent in dealing with matrimonial disputes.

Consideration has been given to the institution of a Juvenile Court and it is hoped that it will be possible in due course to institute such a court, but the Presidency continues to be faced with the inadequacy of facilities—institutional and otherwise—to provide effective treatment for delinquents. The Boys' Training School accommodates only about 20. There is as yet no hostel for girls. Interest on the part of the Churches, voluntary organisations and public-spirited individuals assists in making the best of admittedly unsatisfactory conditions, until circumstances improve to permit of development of these services.

### ST. KITTS

*The promotion of community life* has progressed steadily during the year chiefly through the agency of clubs. In eight areas of the island there are 17 clubs (seven of which are for juveniles) with which the Social Welfare Department maintains touch. The activities of the clubs provide for social, mental, physical and technical improvement. There are

well-organised thrift societies which the members have found to be of practical value.

*Youth Work.* Not as much youth work as was desirable was done, owing to the smallness of the staff. It is hoped, however, that from January, 1948, this phase of the Department's work will receive full attention, when a Youth Organiser, who has recently returned from Jamaica where he received six months' training, will join the staff.

*Handicrafts.* Five craft groups received instruction from a trained instructor who has been seconded from the Education Department for part-time duty with the Social Welfare Department. Useful and saleable articles were made from such local materials as sisal, sansiveira, coconut thatch and banana straws.

*Rural Libraries.* Reading rooms have been established in several villages. The books and magazines are provided mainly by the British Council through the Central Library, Basseterre, and the Department.

*Community Associations and Councils.* In 1946 the only community association and council was the joint one in Trinity and St. Thomas ; this year two more have come into being, one at Sandy Point and the other at Cayon. The Trinity and St. Thomas Council has been instrumental in getting a public bath and latrine for Old Road ; the Council also undertook successfully an exhibition of produce and handicrafts.

*The relief of the destitute and disabled.* Local Boards received Government grants for relief to the poor as well as to orphans or deserted children. The Social Welfare Officer serves on the Poor Law Board.

The paying of old age pensions is to be established, and has been provided for by Government in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1948. These Estimates, amounting to £10,800 for the first year, have not yet been approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The St. Christopher Children's Home and Service League, Ltd., a voluntary body, is mainly responsible for :

- (i) School lunches which were prepared for school children at the cost of 1d. each ; roughly, 38 per cent were served free of cost to needy children. An average of 652 meals were served every school day.
- (ii) A children's home, which is now in the course of construction and which should be completed in the next three or four months. Government has given a grant of £1,700 towards the construction and equipment of the home.

The Social Welfare Officer, now taking a course in social science in England, took an active part in the affairs of the St. Christopher Home and Service League, Ltd., and was a member of its Board of Directors.

*Juvenile Delinquency and Probation Services.* The need for the effective handling of delinquents led to the recommendation that a Probation Service should be set up. Consequently, a trained Probation Officer (who is also Youth Organiser) is to be appointed to the staff in January, 1948.

After-care work is undertaken by a Discharged Prisoners' Aid Committee, with which the Social Welfare Officer closely co-operated.

## NEVIS

*The promotion of community life* has been pursued in three rural areas.

At Brown Hill Village in St. John's Parish, a Savings Union operated successfully during the year, with a membership of 82. Some co-operative education was given.

At Stoney Hill in St. George's Parish a Community Association, a Savings Union and a Girls' Club functioned, while in Rices Village the Social Welfare Department assisted the activities of a Men's Club.

At Rawlins Village in St. James's Parish a building controlled by the Social Welfare Department was turned into a reading room and centre for meetings, discussions and recreational activities.

*Rural Libraries.* Under the auspices of the Central Library Scheme operated by the British Council in Trinidad, it was possible to set up four experimental rural libraries attached to organisations supervised by the Social Welfare Department. These operated successfully and filled a long-felt need.

*Youth Organisations.* The Department took an active part in the programme of a girls' club in Charlestown and an interest in the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Life Brigade movements, of which there are three enrolled companies and two others in the formative stage.

*Cottage Industries.* The secondment of a trained teacher from the Education Department made possible the establishment of centres of instruction in the making of useful and artistic articles from native straws and fibres, in three different localities.

*Village Boards.* The Social Welfare Officer made periodical contact with these Boards with a view to impressing them with a sense of their responsibility in developing community consciousness and organising self-help efforts.

*Recreation.* The Social Welfare Officer served as a member of the island's Sports Committee and was of assistance in the creation of a Sports Association which aims at improvement in physical recreation.

*Voluntary Social Work.* The Social Welfare Officer served as an executive member of the Parent-Teacher Association, which undertakes practical work in connection with school feeding and the distribution of annual gifts of clothing to needy children of school age.

*Relief of the Destitute.* Outdoor relief to paupers is provided for out of the revenues of the Presidency. The sum of £850 was voted in 1947. The fund is administered by a Poor Law Board of which the Warden is Chairman. The Social Welfare Officer is a member of the Board.

## ANGUILLA

*Community Association.* Social work in Anguilla comes under the supervision of the Social Welfare Officer, St. Kitts. Contact was maintained by correspondence during the year, arising from which a Community Association was formed by all the various clubs, associations and youth movements in the island. The Association (with an executive Community Council) was affiliated to the St. Kitts Social Welfare Advisory Committee.

In December a visit was paid to the island by the Acting Social Welfare Officer when a meeting of the Association was held at which a clear explanation was given of its constitution, function and possibilities. A short conference of group leaders was also held and visits paid to some of the clubs.

*Handicrafts.* In the course of the year a school teacher who returned from a course in handicrafts became available to give instruction in the clubs in addition to teaching handicrafts in the schools. There was good progress in making articles from fibres and straws.

*Relief of the Destitute.* This was provided for in the presidential Estimates of Expenditure by a vote of £350, and was locally administered.

#### MONTSEERRAT

No Social Welfare Department has been established in the Presidency. Efforts to provide for the establishment of such a department have up to the present met with little success due to lack of funds.

Government-aided Community Centres exist in Kinsale, Cork Hill and Bethel, and they have been successful.

Government gives relief to the destitute and disabled through a Public Assistance Committee. On the average a sum of £1,000 is distributed annually.

## Chapter 8 : Legislation

Thirteen Federal Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during 1947. Of these the most important were :

(i) An Act to amend further the Trade Unions Act, 1939, so as to remove certain restrictive provisions from the Principal Act which makes it unlawful for one or more persons whether acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union, and whether so acting in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute to attend at or near places where persons work or reside with the intention of intimidating such persons, and declares certain strikes and lock-outs to be illegal.

(ii) An Act to amend the Undesirable Persons Expulsion Act (Cap. 79) which repeals Section 22 of the Principal Act. This section gave absolute power to the Governor to prohibit the entry into the Colony of any person not being a person born in the Colony, and made it obligatory on the ship or aircraft on which a person who is so prohibited arrives, to convey him out of the Colony.

(iii) An Act to authorise the grant of probate or letters of administration of deceased persons to trust corporations, such corporations being a corporation appointed by the Court, or constituted under the law of the Colony or of Great Britain or of Canada and having a place of business in the Colony and empowered by its constitution to undertake trust business.

(iv) An Act to repeal the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Act (Cap. 132) which provided for security to be given by public officers by



way of a monthly contribution to the Fund created by the Act for the faithful performance of their duties, and to authorise certain refunds from such contributions to be made to contributories.

(v) An Act to authorise an increase of certain pensions payable in respect of public service. These increases are payable in the case of a pensioner who is married or has at least one dependant, if his total income does not exceed \$2,160.00, and in the case of any other pension, if his total income does not exceed \$1,680.00.

(vi) An Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to pensions. This Act reduces the retiring age from 60 to 55 years, increases the pension constant from 1/720 to 1/600, and is based on a model which is being adopted by most Colonies.

(vii) An Act to amend further the Police Act (Cap. 84). This Act re-enacts Section 20A of the Principal Act and provides for the taking, for the purpose of identification, of the measurements, photograph and finger-print impressions of any person who is suspected, from the nature or character of the offence with which he is charged, of having been previously convicted of or engaged in crime, if such measurements, photograph and finger-print impressions are required in the interests of justice. It also introduces better provisions in relation to disciplinary proceedings against members of the Police Force.

#### ANTIGUA

In the Presidency of Antigua 19 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1947. Of these the most important were :

(i) An Ordinance to impose a cess on sugar exported from the Presidency and to provide for the establishment of certain funds for the purpose of furthering the interests of the sugar industry and of the workers engaged therein. The amount of the cess is £2 15s. on every ton of sugar exported and is divisible in the following proportions :

£1 5s. to a Price Stabilisation Fund which is to be used to mitigate the adverse effect of any reduction in the price of sugar.

£1 to a Rehabilitation Fund which is to be used for the reimbursement of expenditure of a capital nature incurred by owners of the sugar factories on new development or on deferred major replacements and maintenance, and on factory machinery and equipment in the sugar industry.

10s. to a Labour Welfare Fund which may be used to meet the cost of capital work for improvement of the welfare of labourers engaged in the sugar industry, and for the provision and maintenance of services and amenities generally (including capital works) pertaining to their welfare.

(ii) An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1945, which provides, *inter alia*, that the official emoluments received by the Governor of the Colony shall be exempt from the payment of income tax, and for arrangements being made by the Government of the Presidency with the Government of any territory outside the Presidency to afford relief from double taxation in relation to income tax and any tax of a similar character.

Summary criminal offences are dealt with by Magistrates in each Presidency. Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of the Judge may be had to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes in 1947 :

Summary convictions :

Offences against the person . . . . .	687
Praedial larceny . . . . .	178
Offences against property (other than praedial larceny) . . . . .	498
Other crimes . . . . .	3,922
	<hr/>
	5,285

Convictions in the Supreme Court :

Murder of wife or concubine . . . . .	—
Murder of child . . . . .	—
Murder other than wife, concubine or child . . . . .	2
Manslaughter . . . . .	1
Attempted murder . . . . .	—
Rape . . . . .	3
Unnatural crime . . . . .	—
Other offences against the person . . . . .	18
Praedial larceny . . . . .	—
Offences against property with violence to the person . . . . .	1
Other offences against property . . . . .	92
Other crimes . . . . .	8

TOTAL . . . . .	<hr/> 125 <hr/>
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POLICE

The Police Force is a federal one and consists of two Superintendents, five Assistant Superintendents and 247 n.c.o.s and men, all under the command of a Commissioner who has his headquarters at Antigua. The force is distributed between the four Presidencies of the Colony. A Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents are stationed in St. Kitts-Nevis, one Assistant Superintendent is stationed in Montserrat, while a Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents are stationed in Antigua. The period of enlistment and re-engagement for n.c.o.s and men is three years. Every member is, however, liable to be transferred at the discretion of the Commissioner to the Police Force of the Colony of Dominica. This Force is also under the command of the Commissioner.

PRISONS

The Central Prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua. It has accommodation for 120 males and 47 females, and is staffed by a Head

Warder, a Senior Warder, a Matron, 12 Warders, five temporary warders and one Wardress. £2,755 was expended on personal emoluments during the year. Instruction is given to the male prisoners in carpentry, tin-smithing, shoe making and baking ; and the female prisoners do laundry and sewing.

Elementary education is voluntarily given to some of the young illiterate prisoners by a warder and a couple of prisoners, under the guidance and supervision of the Social Welfare Officer, who takes a great interest in the social life of the prisoners.

Prisoners are also employed within the prison on stone breaking, cleaning, etc., and certain of the male prisoners are employed outside on quarrying stones and cleaning public buildings and institutions.

The prison bakery made over 33,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying the prison and the training school.

The Agricultural Department allocated 10 acres of good arable land to the prison on their Central Experimental Station at Friars Hill. Six acres of the land have been enclosed and produced enough green vegetables, potatoes and yams to supply both the prison and the training school. This has proved a real boon especially to young prisoners who intend to make their living from the land.

Two hundred and thirty-six males and 25 females were committed during the year. Seventy-three males from the other Presidencies were admitted to the Central Prison. The daily average was 110 males and five females.

There are 66 individual cells for males and 25 for females and 10 association cells for five males each, and one for females. There is an average of over 500 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side and another on the female side. The prison medical officer pays daily visits. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island hospital. It is hoped that overcrowding will be relieved when the proposed open farm is established on Nevis.

There are seven Visiting Justices to the prison, who hold periodical meetings to inquire into complaints and to consider questions of prison discipline.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities

### ANTIGUA

*Telephone System.* The Presidency is served by a publicly owned telephone system of a total capacity of 400 subscribers. The system is an earth return magneto type, of ancient vintage. It is at present unable to cope with the growing demand for telephonic communication locally, especially in the city or central area.

The system comprises one central and two sub-exchanges, the former of a capacity of 300 subscribers and the two latter of 50 each. It still continues to give good service though there is need of a more modern and extensive service, and bearing this fact in mind the policy of Government is to maintain the present system in good working order without incurring unnecessary capital expenditure by trying to extend its present capacity.

*Electric Light Service.* The present electric light system has been taken, over by Government from the Antigua Electric Light Company, Ltd. It is a 220-volt direct current system and is totally inadequate for the needs of the present community. Like the telephone system the demands upon it are greater than it can meet, with the result that only some parts of the city area are lit electrically.

The wiring generally needs replacing throughout the town, but difficulties of supply and transport preclude any hope of immediate improvement.

*The Public Water Supplies of Antigua.* On 1st December, 1945, by proclamation in the Leeward Islands Gazette, there came into operation an Ordinance entitled the Watercourses and Water Works Ordinance, 1945 (No. 6 of 1945), which provided for the establishment of a board, styled the Water Board, to control all watercourses and water works in the island, except the distribution of water in the City of St. John's, the management of which was vested in the City Commissioners. This Ordinance also repealed all former watercourses and water works legislation.

The Water Board consists of the Administrator of the Presidency as chairman, the chairman of the City Commissioners, two members nominated by the Governor, and one member nominated by the City Commissioners from among their members. The officers, excluding other employees, who serve the Board are the Water Engineer and the Secretary.

Provision is made for the collection of a water service rate by the Board in areas outside the city limits, and the City Commissioners exercise similar control in the city, the rate being based on assessed annual rentals of premises, and fixed at 5 per cent of such rentals for domestic services and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for non-domestic services.

The normal consumption from the two pipe-borne supplies is approximately 350,000 gallons per day, 275,000 gallons of which are used in the City of St. John's and immediate surroundings, including the villages of Kentish, Grays Farm and Greenbay, and 75,000 gallons in 22 other villages. The total storage from the paved catchments amounts to 250,000 gallons which are available to six villages; 33 tanks of capacities from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons, which collect roof water, serve 19 villages. The aggregate supply is, however, inadequate to meet the needs of the population throughout the year, and it is with a view to improving the situation that a central water scheme is being planned.

The island of Antigua has no streams or rivers of any consequence, nor has recent investigation shown the existence of an underground supply in large quantity. The bulk of the existing supply is therefore the impounded run-off from the ground surface during heavy rains and much depends on the rainfall which normally varies from 40 to 50 inches.

Body Ponds provides the largest storage for such run-off water from a watershed of some 2,000 acres. In a series of five earth reservoirs having masonry dams, 26 million gallons of water are stored. Two Hayward-Tyler pumps of a total capacity of 168,000 gallons per 24 hours, driven by

Ruston and Hornsby engines, lift this water 116 ft. to Grays Hill station after passing it through two pressure filters.

Brecknocks provides  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons storage for surface run-off water in a reservoir of construction similar to that at Body Ponds. The watershed is 200 acres, most of which is protected. The top water elevation, some 260 ft., affords gravity flow to Grays Hill station.

The Springs, three in number, are of the underground horizontal gallery type with an aggregate of 15,000 to 20,000 gallons per day under normal conditions of weather. This supply flows by gravity through the same main as used by Brecknocks.

At the Follies and Fiennes stations the water is pumped from shallow wells varying from 30 ft. to 50 ft. in depth. The plant used at each comprises a  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. Hayward-Tyler pump and an 18 h.p. Hornsby oil engine. The capacity of each varies from 30,000 to 60,000 gallons per day depending on the weather.

Normally the Wallings supply including the newly added Fig Tree supply feeds the high level system which, on account of its higher head (430 ft.), is capable of much wider distribution than the low level system. The capacities of the Wallings and Fig Tree reservoirs are 12 million and 700,000 gallons respectively, but, as the watershed of the former is under 200 acres and the absorption high, the run-off is seldom ever able to fill it. The purification plant consists of a settling tank using a coagulant, two rapid gravity filters, chlorinating equipment and a clear water reservoir of 30,000 gallons capacity.

At Grays Hill station the low level supply receives purification by filtration through two slow sand filters followed by chlorination. Filtered water is stored in two reservoirs of 480,000 gallons and 2,640,000 gallons capacity, the latter being used as a service reservoir for city distribution and the former as a reserve for fire.

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

*Electricity.* The total output of the station is 140 kw., consisting of two 32 kw. sets and one 70 kw. Voltage is 480-230 d.c.

The capacity of the plant is inadequate, and in consequence is overloaded. No additional consumers have been connected for more than a year as a result.

*Ice and Cold Storage.* This consists of a three-cylinder Hall's compressor driven by a horizontal Crossley engine. The maximum output is five tons of ice per day which is insufficient to meet demands.

Cold storage facilities are provided by four cold rooms of 1,000 cu. ft. each and one ice storage room (2,000 cu. ft.). The rooms were designed for fruit and vegetable storage only.

*Water Supply.* The water supply of Basseterre is taken from a mountain stream at an elevation of approximately 1,300 ft. and conveyed to a service reservoir by approximately six miles of 8 in. diameter pipe line; this reservoir is on the outskirts of the town at an elevation of 250 ft. to 300 ft. The treatment plant comprises eight sedimentation basins and four slow filters, the capacity of the sedimentation basin is approximately

350,000 gallons, and the sand filters have a combined area of 1,440 sq. ft. which provides a filtration rate of 18 million gallons per day per acre. The capacity of the pipe line is 348,000 gallons per day and the source has a considerable overflow during wet weather but falls to 250,000 gallons per day during droughts. The water is clear in dry weather, slightly turbid during light rain, and turbid during very wet periods, the consumption at the present time would be 450,000 to 470,000 gallons per day ; however, at drought periods it is necessary to shut off the supply from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The northern area water supply system is extensive and contains a considerable mileage of pipe lines mainly laid about 60 years ago, but no plan of this system is in existence. There are two sources, both mountain streams, which feed the district between Old Road and Sandy Point and Phillips' district ; both sources are close to one another on opposite sides of a saddle in the central ridge of St. Kitts, the villages along this route are served with water from concrete rat-proof tanks augmented by stand pipes at strategic points. Bath houses are provided at Sandy Point and Phillips' village, but villagers seem to have a preference for bathing in the sea and as most villages skirt the shore, there is ample opportunity for this.

*Telephone System.* A magneto type ground return telephone system with three exchanges situated at Basseterre, Cayon and Sandy Point respectively serve approximately 238 subscribers.

#### MONTserrat

There is no public electrical service in this Presidency.

The only public utility service worthy of mention is the waterworks system. It is entirely Government controlled and maintained, and the following is a brief description of it.

The water services of the island consist of five distinct and separate systems.

The Plymouth water supply has its spring source at Brodericks. The water is harnessed at the larger Amersham reservoir and distributed throughout the Plymouth area and southern districts by a system of pipe service.

The Central Leeward District is served by the Hope Spring from which the water is harnessed and distributed by suitable pipe. A windmill installed at a certain point in this area serves to pump water up to the village of St. George's Hill.

The Northern District water supply is fed by the Fogharty, 'Ginger Ground and Underwood Springs. This is a large and hilly district, encompassing many square miles, and the supply of water is comparatively the poorest in the island.

The Harris District water supply has its source at the Killiecrankie Spring. This is an ample service, and the water is satisfactorily stored and adequately distributed by suitable pipes.

The Windward District water supply, of which the source is the Corbett Spring, is harnessed by a catchment and distributed through the district by suitable pipes, with the aid of tanks and towers erected at certain points.

## Chapter 11: Communications

The principal developments in the year under review were the gradual improvement in the steamship services to the Colony from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and a considerable increase in the numbers of calls paid to the airports in the Colony by commercial aircraft.

The Canadian National Steamships from Canada, the Harrison Line from England and the Alcoa Steamship Co. from Canada and New York have resumed regular sailings to the ports of the Colony.

Communication between the islands of the Colony has been greatly improved by the inauguration in 1946 of a new service with the m.v. *Moneka*, owned and operated by a company with headquarters in Montserrat.

There are two railways in the Colony used for the transport of sugar cane to the central factories and of sugar to the wharves.

The abolition of petrol rationing and the ability to import a moderate number of new cars has resulted in an increase in road traffic.

The airport at Coolidge Field in Antigua was opened to commercial traffic in February, 1946; Pan-American Airways make daily calls and B.W.I. Airways have increased their calls to four days per week.

The B.W.I. Airways and K.L.M. Air Line make regular calls at the St. Kitts airport.

A considerable increase in the volume of air mail and air express to and from the Colony is recorded.

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony. Cable & Wireless (West Indies), Ltd., have extended their wireless telephone service from Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat to the principal islands in the British West Indies, Canada and the United Kingdom.

## PART III

### Chapter I : Geography and Climate

THE Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 422 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degrees of west longitude, and around the 17th degree of north latitude ; but Anguilla, Sombbrero, and still more the Virgins group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, etc.), lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, whilst Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain.

The climate of the islands varies, but is usually dry and fairly healthy. Antigua is subject to drought, and has an average rainfall of about 45 in. ; St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat have average rainfalls of from 50 to 60 in. The mean temperature is about 80° with but a slight range. The Virgin Islands are cooler. The hot season is from May to October ; the rainy season from August to January.

The rainfall registered at the different Botanic Stations during 1947 was as follows :

Antigua	. . . . .	29 in.
St. Kitts	. . . . .	48 in.
Montserrat	. . . . .	53 in.
Virgin Islands	. . . . .	55 in.

The mean temperature was 79° F.

### Chapter 2 : History

The Colony is divided into four Presidencies : (a) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda, (b) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla, (c) Montserrat, and (d) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These four Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.



St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonised by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, Captain of the King's Bodyguard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689 and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the year 1782 the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at "The Saints" near Dominica and save the then Colonial Empire.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25, and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet, who survived him. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the chief drafter of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony and the residence of the Governor. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured and occupied for less than a year by the French. At Antigua is the historic Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunt of pirates.

### Chapter 3 : Administration

There is one Governor of the Colony, and his representatives in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis and two from Montserrat) are elected by and from the unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and

partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system. The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted. The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866. There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1936 steps were taken to reconstitute the Presidential Legislative Councils with unofficial majorities, and with partly elected and partly nominated unofficial members. The reconstituted Legislative Councils came into being in 1937.

#### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

In Antigua (St. John's) there is a partly unofficial municipal body called the City Commissioners.

### Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Standard imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided for by law.

### Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

The following are the principal newspapers and periodicals published in this Colony :

#### ANTIGUA

*Weekly :*        *Leeward Islands Gazette ; Antigua Newsletter.*  
*Daily :*        *Antigua Star ; Worker's Voice ; Antigua Magnet.*

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

*Fortnightly :* *St. Christopher-Nevis Official Gazette.*  
*Weekly :*        *Workers Weekly.*  
*Daily :*        *St. Christopher-Nevis Daily Bulletin ; Union Messenger.*

#### MONTSERRAT

*Weekly :*        *Montserrat Observer.*

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# Leeward Islands 1948



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(see list on cover page 3).

COLONIAL OFFICE

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1948

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1950

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The cover illustration shows the St. John's Harbour, Antigua

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## PART I

### Review of 1948

THE beginning of the year was marked by a serious labour dispute which caused delays in commencement of work in the sugar industry of the two larger islands of the Colony.

In February and March boards of enquiry were appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Parry and Mr. A. C. G. Palmer, M.B.E., respectively, to enquire and report on the causes of industrial disputes which then existed in St. Kitts and Antigua. Later, a special commission was appointed under the chairmanship of the Right Honourable Lord Soulbury, P.C., O.B.E., M.C., D.L., to enquire into the workings of the sugar industries in these islands with wide terms of reference. The commission completed its enquiries and its Report was published in December, 1949.

The Right Honourable the Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, who was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony in succession to Sir Brian Freeston, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., arrived and assumed office on 23rd March.

Two meetings of the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands were held. At the first meeting on 22nd May, a resolution was unanimously passed adopting the resolutions of the Closer Association Conference held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 1947, and also agreeing to the comments of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the same subject, as set out in his despatch of 14th December, 1947. At this session the Colony's unofficial delegate to the West Indian Conference and the candidate for election to the British Section of the Caribbean Commission were selected. At the next meeting held early in December, Acts were passed which were designed to bring Colony legislation up to date and to effect improvements in various spheres.

The payment of a cost-of-living allowance to officers of the Civil Service drawing salaries up to £800 per annum was approved. This served to alleviate the financial difficulties caused by the high cost of living of which officers had complained.

A much appreciated event was the visit to various islands of the Colony of units of the Home Fleet and of the ships of the Royal Canadian Navy.

The Colony was represented at the West Indian Conference held in Guadeloupe by the Administrator of Antigua and Mr. R. J. Gordon, member of the General Legislative Council, with the Federal Education Officer as Adviser.

News of the birth of a Prince to Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh was received with rejoicing and a Bank Holiday was proclaimed on 16th November in honour of the occasion.

#### ANTIGUA

A severe drought followed by a strike in the sugar industry in February, which was not settled till April, had a disastrous effect on the economy of the island. The sugar crop was completed in July but a period of extreme distress for the inhabitants followed. There were no vegetables or other local produce on which the peasants usually subsist in hard times. All the reservoirs and ponds were dry. The people of St. John's had about three gallons per head per day, and in the country the Government delivered tanks of water to various villages as often as possible and villagers would spend a day to collect one or two tins of it from some well or spring. It might take nearly an hour to collect one tin of water which was always partly salt and usually muddy. About the same time the pasture failed and many animals died of starvation. Money was short, work scarce, and in many places even building had to stop for lack of water.

In these circumstances, though a deficit was inevitable, the Government represented to the Secretary of State that some relief should be provided, and a series of works were undertaken which, though sufficient only to provide the unemployed with one week's work in every three or four, were of material benefit to the island. The first work undertaken was the cleaning of Body Ponds, the series of reservoirs in a valley which have been the main source of supply of the capital since the seventeenth century. Their storage capacity was enlarged by some 5 million gallons at a cost of £5,220. Sixteen other ponds were also cleaned, giving additional storage of about a million gallons at a cost of £1,500. Employment was given to an average of 305 persons a week.

In September improved rainfall began to impede this work and most of what was required had been completed. It was, however, still necessary to provide some means of subsistence for the people and other useful projects were commenced. Part of the main road to Coolidge Field, which had never been properly constructed, was taken in hand at an estimated cost of £1,667. A further £4,500 was spent on improving bumps and trenches on the main roads. £417 was spent on deepening the entrance to the lagoon at Barbuda and nearly £10,000 was spent on clearance of land for cultivation. Considerable areas of land which were found insufficiently productive of cane in the past have grown nothing but scrub which is useful only for charcoal. Much of this land is suitable for cotton, maize and vegetables, and assistance was given to any persons who might be in a position to clear and cultivate such land. As a result, some 971 acres of land were cleared and the stumps of trees removed, while a further 420 acres were cleared only. If all this land is cultivated it will increase the area under cultivation by about 8 per cent. In many cases, land

thus cleared is already producing crops. It has also been observed that the example and the prospect of good prices for cotton has caused some additional land to be cleared without Government assistance.

A report on the old Dockyard at English Harbour was submitted by Mr. C. E. Clouting, formerly Senior Architect in the Ministry of Works in charge of Ancient Monuments. This report estimated the cost of full restoration at over £100,000 but recommended restoration of the more important buildings only, at a cost of £48,000. This sum could not be found from the revenues of Antigua but a public appeal for funds is under consideration.

It has long been considered that for its development and welfare, Antigua needs an improved hospital and water supply. Previous attempts to plan a new hospital had not resulted in any proposal within the means of the Presidency. Early in the year the Leeward Islands Government obtained the services of an architect at the cost of the Development and Welfare Organisation to design a hospital for Antigua. This was completed during the year and provided for a three storey concrete building to cost \$800,000 (£166,666). No decision had been taken on this plan by the end of the year.

Plans for an efficient water supply are still being drawn up. A detailed description of what has been done during the year is given on page 39.

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

A dispute between the St. Christopher Sugar Producers Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union resulted in a four-months' strike, which appreciably reduced Government revenue and the earnings of the workers and employers.

The Commission appointed by the Governor to inquire into the conditions of the sugar industry carried out its investigations, and its report was published in December, 1949.

Lack of staff retarded progress on various proposed development schemes, including agriculture, public health and water supplies. A scheme for the installation of an A.C. electrical supply for St. Kitts and a limited D.C. supply for Nevis was, however, formulated and orders for the required equipment and machinery placed with the Crown Agents.

## PART II

### Chapter 1 : Population

THE estimated population on 31st December, 1948, and the population figures for the previous year were as follows :

	1948	1947
Antigua . . . . .	43,504	43,442
St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla	46,288	45,859
Montserrat . . . . .	13,504	13,283
Virgin Islands . . . . .	6,000	6,690
	<u>109,296</u>	<u>109,274</u>

### Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

#### OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

##### ANTIQUA

##### *Mill Reef Properties Ltd.*

(Weekly averages)

	<i>Nos. Employed</i>		<i>Gross Earnings</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
September . . . . .	322	14	\$2,874.47	\$49.55
October . . . . .	343	16	3,199.05	50.60
November . . . . .	365	16	3,520.55	60.21
December . . . . .	398	18	3,875.38	62.22

##### *Estates*

(Weekly averages)

	<i>No. of Estates</i>	<i>No. Employed</i>		<i>Gross earnings</i>		<i>Average Weekly Earnings</i>	
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
August . . . . .	18	879	1,685	\$4,022.35	\$3,385.53	\$4.58	\$2.01
September . . . . .	18	919	1,545	4,120.93	3,030.04	4.48	1.96
October . . . . .	18	1,000	1,473	4,675.59	3,019.86	4.58	2.05
November . . . . .	18	940	1,547	4,801.48	3,401.60	5.11	2.20
December . . . . .	18	978	1,631	4,638.76	3,254.19	4.74	2.00

##### *Antigua Sugar Factory*

(Weekly averages)

	<i>No. of Persons</i>		<i>Gross Earnings</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
October . . . . .	458	22	\$4,449.98	\$99.37
November . . . . .	499	27	5,028.39	114.05
December . . . . .	516	32	5,391.45	139.91



*Montpelier Sugar Factory*  
(Weekly averages)

	<i>No. of Men</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>
October . . . . .	6	\$47.11
November . . . . .	8	57.05
December . . . . .	9	65.92

*Government Departments*  
(Weekly averages)

<i>Month</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Earnings</i>	<i>Artisans</i>		<i>Unskilled Workers</i>		<i>Gross Earnings</i>	
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
September . . . . .	50	\$703.77	563	342	\$3,381.86		\$822.43	
October . . . . .	45	606.93	715	326	4,112.23		706.91	
November . . . . .	55	765.54	1,494	299	10,853.55		885.95	
December . . . . .	55	725.46	1,033	232	6,192.61		709.02	

*Unemployment Relief*

The programme of relief work referred to in Part I and carried out by the Water Department had two objects :

- (a) to provide work for as many villages as possible ;
- (b) to increase in storage capacity the ponds of those villages most affected by the drought.

An average number of 305 persons weekly were given employment over a period of 19 weeks, with a total expenditure of \$32,256. It is calculated that as a result an increase of storage space for about 5,878,000 gallons has been provided.

During the October-December quarter special relief work was carried out by the Agricultural Department to relieve unemployment and at the same time increase productivity. Expenditure during this period amounted to about \$48,000, and the average number of persons employed weekly was 912. Certain areas were cleared and stumped ; in other areas contouring was done, old drains re-opened and new drains dug. Roads were also improved at a cost of \$29,600.

**ST. KITTS**

*Estates*

	<i>Nos. Employed</i>		<i>Gross Earnings</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
July . . . . .	5,797	4,566	\$161,249.59
August . . . . .	5,399	4,135	116,328.12
September . . . . .	5,120	4,029	82,711.78

*St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory*

	<i>Nos. Employed</i>		<i>Gross Earnings</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
October . . . . .	709	4	\$28,277
November . . . . .	712	4	29,266
December . . . . .	700	4	35,160

*Government Departments*

(Weekly averages)

<i>Month</i>	<i>Artisans</i>			<i>Unskilled Workers</i>		
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>	<i>Females</i>
October . .	42	\$408.11	122	25	\$697.43	\$83.93
November . .	42	402.22	127	25	704.39	77.74
December . .	55	556.25	131	24	728.79	79.12

## MONTSERRAT

Estate labour is paid for by the task or the day or, in the case of farming and one or two other operations, by the acre. Cotton picking is paid for by the pound. Payment by the task is much more general than payment by the day. Rates of pay varied somewhat according to district, and there was some tendency towards rises during the latter part of the year when cultivation of the 1949 crop was beginning. The following figures indicate agricultural wage rates for the year :

## Estate Male Labourers :

per day, 48 cents to 64 cents ;  
per task, 56 cents to 64 cents.

## Estate Female Labourers :

per day, 32 cents to 40 cents ;  
per task, 36 cents to 54 cents ;  
farming (weeding) cotton, per acre \$1.32 to \$2.16 ;  
picking cotton, per lb., one and a quarter cents.

## Ginnery Male Labourers :

per day, 60 cents to 68 cents.

## Ginnery Female Labourers :

per day, 40 cents.

## Wage rates in other occupations were :

Artisans—per day, various rates, average perhaps about \$1.96.

## Road Maintenance, Male Labourers :

per day, 58 cents to 60 cents.

## Road Maintenance, Female Labourers :

per day, 38 cents to 40 cents.

## Commercial Store Clerks, Men :

per week, \$6.00 to \$9.00.

## Commercial Store Clerks, Women :

per week, \$4.32 to \$7.68.

## Domestic Servants, Women :

per week, \$2.16 to \$3.00.

## EMPLOYMENT IN SHIPPING

## ANTIGUA

<i>Month</i>	<i>No. of Ships</i>	<i>No. of Stevedores</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>	<i>No. of Boatmen or Lightermen</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>	<i>No. of Porters or Longshoremen</i>	<i>Gross Earnings</i>	<i>Average Earnings per man per ship</i>
September	16	437	\$2,048.51	337	\$1,657.22	187	\$900.57	\$4.80
October	12	348	1,499.32	262	973.38	126	540.25	3.71
November	11	503	2,660.00	399	1,810.49	187	1,270.71	5.27
December	15	372	1,321.28	322	1,085.60	154	853.90	3.81

## ST. KITTS

October	10	408	\$1,608.84	191	\$736.68	180	\$1,075.52	\$4.04
November	9	261	1,170.26	241	1,726.52	205	1,966.25	5.38
December	10	407	1,599.26	284	1,478.79	265	2,227.70	5.11

## COST OF LIVING

*Index figures for 1948 (1939=100)*

	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
Antigua . . . .	199	202	—
St. Kitts . . . .	203	203	203
Montserrat . . . .	215	218	221
Virgin Islands . . . .	195	193	—

A cost of living bonus was granted to Government employees as from 1st January, 1948, at the following rates :

25 per cent on first	£100 per annum
15 " " " next	£100 " "
10 " " " " "	£100 " "

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In Antigua employers and workmen failed to agree as to the terms on which the sugar crop should be reaped. A deadlock was reached and a strike declared early in February although a number of attempts were made to settle the dispute. When agreement was finally achieved in April a part of the crop, which would in any case have been much below average, had been lost.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a long-standing dispute in the sugar industry between the St. Christopher Sugar Producers Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union resulted in a strike which lasted from January to April, 1948. The strike was eventually terminated by the agreement of both parties that the matter in dispute should be submitted to arbitration. On 28th October, 1948, under the provisions of the Trades Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Act, 1939, Mr. Justice Richards commenced arbitration proceedings into the rates and conditions of employment ; arbitration was concluded on 18th December.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

In Antigua no accidents in factories were reported. Thirteen claims were made for compensation from Government departments ; the total amount paid was \$112.01.

In St. Kitts one accident in a factory was reported and there were four claims for compensation from Government departments ; the total amount paid was \$38.11.

## LEGISLATION

The following legislation was passed :

Factories Act, Leeward Islands No. 4 of 1948.

Police (Amendment) Act, Leeward Islands No. 13 of 1948, establishes a Police Welfare Association and prohibits members of the Police Force from becoming members of Trade Unions.

# Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

## ANTIGUA

<i>Revenue</i>	1948 (estimate)
	\$
Customs . . . . .	565,894
Port and Harbour . . . . .	18,508
Internal Revenue :	
Income Tax . . . . .	\$197,412
Other Taxes . . . . .	250,464
	<hr/>
	447,876
Fees of Court or Office, etc. . . . .	114,795
Post Office, Telephones, etc. . . . .	187,820
Housing and Land Settlement Schemes . . . . .	2,833
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	396,574
Other . . . . .	177,644
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	\$1,911,944

<i>Expenditure</i>	\$
Administration . . . . .	30,177
Public Debt . . . . .	38,818
Pensions . . . . .	30,680
Federal Services . . . . .	210,134
Agriculture . . . . .	121,663
Water Services . . . . .	77,359
Medical Services . . . . .	70,139
Hospital, etc. . . . .	184,366
Education . . . . .	145,507
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	94,601
Public Works . . . . .	325,201
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	373,947
Other . . . . .	475,265
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	\$2,177,857

<i>Public Debt</i>	\$
Local Loans . . . . .	200,663
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	256,354

<i>Taxation Yields</i>	\$
Import Duties . . . . .	516,304
Export Duties . . . . .	49,590
Income Tax . . . . .	197,412
Excise . . . . .	97,554
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	187,820

## ST. KITTS-NEVIS

<i>Revenue</i>	1948 (revised estimate)
	\$
Customs . . . . .	659,815
Taxes . . . . .	382,611
Fees of Court . . . . .	5,495
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	149,614
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	\$1,760,344

<i>Expenditure</i>	\$
Administration . . . . .	37,205
Public Debt . . . . .	13,511
Pensions . . . . .	41,233
Federal Services . . . . .	180,516
Water Services . . . . .	18,430
Medical Services . . . . .	117,140
Hospitals and Charitable Institutions . . . . .	146,310
Education . . . . .	190,096
Post Office . . . . .	36,711
Public Works . . . . .	209,795
Total . . . . .	<u>\$1,641,345</u>
<i>Public Debt at 31st December, 1948</i>	\$
Local Loans . . . . .	96,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	39,055
Total . . . . .	<u>\$135,055</u>
<i>Assets and Liabilities</i>	\$
General Revenue Balance at 1st January, 1948 . . . . .	808,119
Estimated Revenue Balance at 31st December, 1948 . . . . .	118,999
Estimated Excess of Assets over Liabilities . . . . .	<u>\$927,118</u>
<i>Taxation Yields</i>	\$
Import Duties . . . . .	524,687
Export Duties . . . . .	135,128
Income Tax . . . . .	350,840
Excise . . . . .	33,653
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	149,614

## MONTSERRAT

<i>Revenue</i>	1948 (revised estimate)
	\$
Customs . . . . .	120,676
Internal Revenue, Excise, Licences . . . . .	38,759
Fees of Court or Office, etc. . . . .	72,879
Posts, Telegraph, etc. . . . .	143,377
Other . . . . .	11,706
Total . . . . .	<u>\$387,397</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>	\$
Public Debt . . . . .	4,011
Pensions . . . . .	13,560
Federal Services . . . . .	46,877
Administration . . . . .	17,458
Water . . . . .	5,091
Medical . . . . .	15,847
Hospital . . . . .	36,525
Education . . . . .	68,315
Post Office, etc. . . . .	14,303
Public Works . . . . .	53,180
Otway Settlement . . . . .	47,734
Other . . . . .	139,860
Total . . . . .	<u>\$462,761</u>

	1948 (revised estimate)
<i>Public Debt</i>	\$
Local Loans . . . . .	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	100,125
<i>Assets and Liabilities</i>	\$
Excess of Liabilities at 31st December, 1948	33,694
<i>Taxation Yields</i>	\$
Import Duties . . . . .	110,871
Export Duties . . . . .	9,805
Income Tax . . . . .	8,989
Excise . . . . .	13,853
Post Office, Telegraphs, etc. . . . .	143,377

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1948 (revised estimate)
<i>Revenue</i>	\$
Customs . . . . .	21,360
Internal Revenue, Taxes, Licences, etc. . . . .	10,199
Post Office . . . . .	140,261
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants . . . . .	58,800
Other . . . . .	8,144
Total . . . . .	\$238,764
<i>Expenditure</i>	\$
Pensions . . . . .	3,802
Federal Services . . . . .	11,264
Administration . . . . .	26,600
Agriculture . . . . .	12,287
Education . . . . .	33,357
Medical . . . . .	13,452
Public Works . . . . .	25,129
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	11,817
Other . . . . .	12,938
Total . . . . .	\$150,646

There is no public debt.

Estimated excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1948, \$615.

<i>Taxation Yields, 1948</i>	\$
Import Duties . . . . .	18,240
Export Duties . . . . .	3,120
Income Tax . . . . .	720
Excise . . . . .	1,200
Post Office . . . . .	140,261

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

British currency is legal tender throughout the Colony, but in the Virgin Islands, where there is no bank, American currency is also in circulation. Government accounts are kept in sterling but in banks and commercial houses the dollar system is used.

Government of Trinidad notes are in circulation in the Colony.

Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) and the Royal Bank of Canada operate branches in the Colony. In addition, there are Government Savings Banks in Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands with total deposits of over £250,000.

A Currency Conference was held in Barbados in May, 1946, at which a delegate attended from the Colony. Its recommendations for the establishment of the unified West Indian currency based on the dollar has been generally accepted but has not yet been implemented.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

### IMPORTS

	<i>Antigua</i> \$	<i>St. Kitts- Nevis</i> \$	<i>Mont- serrat</i> \$	<i>Virgin Islands</i> \$
Butter and Butter Substitutes . . . . .	73,473	61,153	8,646	3,213
Fish (all kinds) . . . . .	144,405	126,730	25,191	1,531
Grain (all kinds) . . . . .	978,850	826,733	181,300	64,691
Meat (all kinds) . . . . .	110,106	125,598	17,111	3,633
Wood and Timber (unmanufactured) . . . . .	142,475	115,468	25,075	20,873
Apparel . . . . .	53,126	42,829	6,821	4,951
Boots, Shoes, Slippers . . . . .	56,942	55,478	15,189	6,249
Cotton Piece-goods and Manufactures . . . . .	280,719	400,675	125,190	14,721
Oils . . . . .	155,167	163,311	25,041	4,230
<b>Total Imports . . . . .</b>	<b>\$3,825,196</b>	<b>\$4,103,384</b>	<b>\$908,540</b>	<b>\$254,880</b>

### EXPORTS

	<i>Antigua</i> \$	<i>St. Kitts- Nevis</i> \$	<i>Mont- serrat</i> \$
Sugar . . . . .	1,636,359	3,927,349	—
Molasses . . . . .	—	102,469	—
Cotton (all kinds) . . . . .	147,195	147,846	383,380
Rum . . . . .	66,592	—	—
Vegetables (all kinds) . . . . .	665	1,528	33,502
<b>Total Exports . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,934,998</b>	<b>\$4,307,626</b>	<b>\$416,882</b>

### *Virgin Islands*

	\$
Livestock . . . . .	102,059
Fish, fresh . . . . .	8,642
Fruits, fresh . . . . .	6,123
Charcoal . . . . .	15,096
<b>Total Exports . . . . .</b>	<b>\$156,326</b>



# Chapter 6 : Production

## AGRICULTURE

### *Sugar*

Sugar cane is grown by both large-scale agriculturists (estates) and by peasants. The total acreage under this crop in 1948 was about 21,000 acres. The average yield of canes per acre was 11.3 tons in Antigua and 26.63 tons in St. Kitts. Antigua produced 12,174 tons and St. Kitts 31,393 tons of grey crystals. Antigua also produces a small amount of Muscovado. Reasons for the heavy fall in Antigua production are given on page 17.

### *Cotton*

This crop is produced principally by peasants ; there are few large cotton-growing estates with the exception of Montserrat, where out of 3,447 acres planted in 1948, 981 acres were on estates, 1,601 acres were cultivated by peasants and 865 acres were share-cropped. Cotton is by far the most important crop in Montserrat.

### *Citrus Products*

No accurate figures are obtainable of the quantity of oranges and limes produced. Some export figures are given on page 17.

### *Food Crops*

No accurate and individual Presidential returns of food production are available. Principal crops include corn, sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, peas, beans, bananas, tomatoes, peanuts and carrots.

In Antigua the total acreage under food crops is estimated to have averaged about 1,400 acres. In St. Kitts all sugar estates were required to plant and cultivate vegetables on an area equal to at least 10 per cent of the total acreage of sugar cultivation, or approximately 1,000 acres, but yields were limited by bad weather and the acreage by labour disturbances.

Montserrat was able to restart the export of tomatoes to Canada (in abeyance since the early years of the war) in a small way and some 65,000 lb. were sent to that country. The Government Marketing Board paid 9 cents per pound to peasant growers for the tomatoes it packed and shipped on their behalf. Tomatoes were also shipped to Bermuda and Barbados.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The aim is to produce (a) cattle for meat, milk and transport (estate) purposes, (b) sheep, goats, swine and poultry for food purposes, (c) equines for transport.

Animal health was good throughout the year, with the exception of one outbreak of anthrax in Nevis.

There is a developed livestock industry within the Virgin Islands with the United States' island of St. Thomas as a market. During the year the following numbers were shipped :

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Value</i>
1,019	463	2,259	784	3	\$102,659 or £21,262

The Agricultural Departments in the Presidencies continued to assist farmers by the provision of selected stud animals for breeding purposes, the distribution of breeding stock and the demonstration of approved principles of animal husbandry and management of pastures.

#### FORESTRY

All efforts are directed towards the conservation of forests in order to save soil and water. There is a very small amount of local timber produced in connection with the building of boats and posts for fencing, etc.

#### FISHERIES

No figures are available for the production of fish in the Colony. There are no organised fish markets and the fishing is undertaken entirely by individual fishermen.

#### MINING

This is confined entirely to Antigua, where small quantities of barytes are mined and exported to the island of Trinidad for processing. None was exported during the year.

#### INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

##### *Sugar and Rum*

There are three sugar factories in the Colony, two in Antigua, the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd., and the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd., (Montpelier Branch), and one in St. Kitts, the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company.

The price paid for canes in Antigua by the Antigua Sugar Factory was 34s. 10.9224*d.* per ton to contractors and 33s. 11*d.* to non-contractors. In St. Kitts the Factory paid 34s. 11.2554*d.* per ton to contractors and 32s. 3*d.* to non-contractors.

Rum is produced in Antigua by the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd., by two private concerns in Montserrat and by one or two individuals in Tortola. During the year 99,774 gallons of rum were produced in Antigua, of which about two-thirds were exported. Montserrat has about a hundred acres planted with sugar cane, the whole of which goes to the two distilleries; the rum is all sold locally.

##### *Cotton*

All the seed cotton is ginned and baled locally; the clean lint is exported. The ginneries in most cases are operated by individual owners and there are two factories operating in the manufacture of cotton seed meal and cotton seed oil—this is all consumed within the Colony.

The following quantities of clean lint and stains were produced in 1948 :

	<i>Clean Lint</i> lb.	<i>Stains</i> lb.	<i>Total</i> lb.
Antigua <sup>1</sup>	211,878	9,048	220,926
St. Kitts-Nevis <sup>2</sup>	235,773	58,521	294,294
Montserrat	633,708	57,181	690,889
Total	1,081,359	124,750	1,206,109

The whole of the 1948 crop of clean lint was bought by the Raw Cotton Commission at the following rates per found f.o.b. :

	1	2 Extra	Grade 2	3 Extra	3 and below
Antigua	66 cents	65 cents	64 cents	63 cents	62 cents
Nevis	71 cents	70 cents	69 cents	68 cents	67 cents
Montserrat and St. Kitts	78 cents	77 cents	76 cents	75 cents	74 cents

### *Citrus Products*

These are produced almost entirely in the island of Montserrat by the Montserrat Company Ltd., and all the products such as lime juice (raw), lime oil distilled, and lime oil ecuelled are exported.

The following are export figures of certain products :

4,450 lb. fresh limes
25,992 gallons raw lime juice
72 lb. distilled lime oil
667 lb. ecuelled lime oil

### *Cornmeal*

There are two small factories, one in Antigua and the other in St. Kitts for the manufacture of cornmeal as well as the cracking and shelling of corn. The production of cornmeal is limited to the amount of corn bought by the Government Marketing Depots ; owing to the drought the quantity bought in 1948 was negligible.

## FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION

### *Antigua*

The September and November rains, on which both the sugar crop and water supply of the succeeding year depend, failed in 1947. Both the preceding years had been dry ones and the cumulative effect of this third year of drought had a disastrous effect on the sugar crop, an effect which will continue to be felt in 1949. Although 37 inches of rain fell between the New Year and 1st September, the soil and climate of Antigua are such that no benefit is obtained unless about two inches falls at one time. Not only was the sugar crop ruined, but there was also a great shortage of vegetables and other local produce, the pasture failed and many animals died of starvation. The light falls of rain were sufficient to sustain a fair cotton crop and

<sup>1</sup> Includes Barbuda.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Anguilla.

to revive the grass from time to time. It was also enough for most of the cane planted to become established and to profit by the heavy rain when it fell in October, 1948.

The disastrous economic effect of this drought was aggravated by the strike in the sugar industry described on pages 4 and 10. The final production figures for sugar were 12,174 tons against 26,023 tons in 1946 and 22,736 tons in 1947. As sugar is normally about 90 per cent of the island's exports, this was a very severe blow to its economy.

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis*

A prolonged strike in the sugar industry delayed the commencement of cane cutting by several weeks during which much of the cane deteriorated. The crop was also seriously affected by the burning of cane fields during and after the dispute. Labour troubles also sharply reduced the acreage of cotton planted in St. Kitts.

#### *Montserrat*

A new rum distillery was established at Farrells late in 1947 and operated its first full season in 1948.

### LAND SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

#### *Antigua*

In Antigua the Land Settlement and Development Board appointed by the Governor in March, 1945, functioned legally as a Board corporate under the Land Settlement and Development Ordinance, 1946. This Board is under the chairmanship of the Agricultural Superintendent and its work is closely integrated with that of the Department of Agriculture, which, during the present year, carried out the executive work on all land settlements.

For departmental purposes the island is divided into six districts with six instructors and two senior instructors resident in the areas for which they are responsible. One additional instructor is in charge of a mobile soil conservation unit.

The cost of providing supervision, credit facilities, construction, demonstration, etc., and carrying out work of an experimental or exploratory nature was borne by the Department of Agriculture from general funds, while expenditure aimed directly at providing more land amenities and utilities is met from a special Land Settlement and Development Board allocation. A considerable number of ex-service-men were settled on about 200 acres of land under the scheme and loans on easy terms have been granted together with special instruction and supervision.

Work during the year on all settlements consisted of improvements to water supplies, roads and the clearing of wooded areas, soil and water conservation, demonstrations, etc., in addition to which lectures and informal talks were given by officers of the department to Settlement Committees and general meetings of peasant settlers.

At the end of the year there were twenty-five settlement areas totalling approximately 12,050 acres allotted to about 2,300 persons.

Eight of the older settlements totalling approximately 5,523 acres are under freehold tenure.

Some of the land in four of these settlements (989 acres) has already been alienated while the rest (4,534 acres) is in process of alienation.

With regard to arable land in the other settlement areas, Government had adopted the policy recommended in the Report of the Agricultural Policy Committee of Antigua, 1944, i.e., "no land at present owned by Government or which may in the future be purchased by Government should be alienated for agricultural use on a freehold basis no matter what the size of the unit involved."

Legislation for leasehold tenure with compensation for unexhausted improvements has been approved for these areas.

## Chapter 7 : Social Services

### EDUCATION

The Colony's educational policy has the following economic and social aims :

- (a) the good use of the land and the conservation of the soil ;
- (b) a stable family economy, self sufficient to the degree that it will not be disrupted by changes in production for export ;
- (c) efficient production for export ;
- (d) diversification of products and markets.

In order to achieve these aims it is necessary for all agencies already at work in the field of education to co-operate to disseminate knowledge and create an improved public opinion.

The objective of primary education is to provide for all children from the ages of six to 12 years, the proposed compulsory school ages, a thorough curriculum designed to make them literate and to inculcate in them a sense of duty and of discipline and to train them in good habits.

The schools for secondary education will be of two types, the senior school or department which will provide a sound general education up to the age of 15 or 16, with a proper balance of academic and practical work, and the grammar type of school for academic education up to the standard of the Higher School Certificate examination. A system of technical education, now under consideration, will probably be provided in conjunction with the grammar schools in order to effect maximum economies in staffing and equipment. All education at this stage will be voluntary.

D

In order to implement these proposals, policy is being specifically directed towards the provision of :

- (a) school places sufficient to give schooling to all children of the compulsory school age ;
- (b) the selection and training of a greater number of teachers for service in the schools ;
- (c) teachers and schools, to the extent which resources permit, for children from 12 to 16 years ;
- (d) opportunities for vocational and professional training regulated by the available resources ;
- (e) facilities for adult education.

The Federal Education Officer advises the Government on educational matters. The Education Officer (St. Kitts-Nevis) with an Inspector of Schools directs affairs in that Presidency. The Inspector of Schools, Antigua, the School Supervisor, Montserrat, and the Supervisor of Education, Virgin Islands, manage the schools in their respective Presidencies. Each Presidency has a Board of Education.

In 1948, approximately \$119,367 was expended on education from local funds in the Colony as a whole as follows :

Personal Emoluments	..	..	\$94,915
School Equipment	..	..	7,680
Secondary Schools	..	..	13,931
Training of Teachers	..	..	2,160
Domestic Science	..	..	681
			<hr/>
			\$119,367

Under the Development and Welfare Act a sum of \$8,506 was made available for training of teachers under the following heads :

Additional Pupil Teachers	..	..	\$3,744
Training of Domestic Science Teachers			\$1,680
Secondary Schooling of Prospective Teachers	..	..	\$2,880

Teachers now enter the Education Department through two channels : pupil teachership in primary schools and a secondary school course. The Leeward Islands teachers' second class certificate is the minimum standard of attainment for certification.

Some primary and secondary schools are maintained by religious bodies, e.g., convent schools and Spring Gardens Training College, which is run by the Moravian Church and provides training for female teachers.

One school building and one teachers' house was erected from funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act during 1948. The other school buildings need to be modernised and, in some instances, to be replaced.

Languages are taught in the secondary schools only, where scholars are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Opportunities for higher education now exist in the University College of the West Indies, Jamaica. The University College employs a Resident Tutor in Antigua, who furthers its extra mural work which is growing. Voluntary organisations—the General Improvement Organisation, Spartro Old Boys Club, etc.,—have attempted evening classes for adolescents and grown-ups.

Schemes for vocational training and apprenticeship have been planned but have not yet gone into operation.

#### ANTIGUA

Primary school accommodation was provided for 8,000 children in 25 Government schools in Antigua, and one grant-aided school in Barbuda. The average attendance during the year was 5,230, approximately 65 per cent.

Work was carried out on a new school building to take the place of the dilapidated building in use at present at Greenbay.

The number of teachers employed in these schools was as follows :

Supervising Teachers	.	.	.	.	.	3
Certificated Teachers, Grade I	.	.	.	.	.	23
"    "    Grade II	.	.	.	.	.	51
Uncertificated Teachers	.	.	.	.	.	48
Pupil Teachers	.	.	.	.	.	116

Fourteen Grade I certificated teachers and 11 Grade II were in charge of schools. One male and four female certificated teachers have special training and qualification in handicrafts and three females have had special training in domestic science.

There were 14 pupils in training as intending teachers at secondary schools. One of these completed his course at the end of the year and reported for service in the Education Department. This training was financed by funds allocated for training of teachers under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

There were 718 pupils attending the five secondary schools in the islands. Of these schools four receive a Government grant-in-aid. The number of boys holding Government scholarships at the Antigua Grammar School was 30. There were 26 Government scholarship holders at the Antigua Girls' High School.

Two male teachers who were in training at the Government Training College, Trinidad, completed their course and returned to the island towards the end of the year. Of the six female teachers in training at the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College two were from Antigua.

The General Improvement Organisation continued to run classes in adult education in twelve villages. Towards the end of the year the Department of Extra Mural Studies of the University College of the West Indies appointed a Resident Tutor for the Leeward Islands with headquarters at Antigua. The officer appointed to this post arrived in November.

## ST. KITTS-NEVIS

*Administration*

The executive officers of the Education Department of St. Kitts-Nevis are the Education Officer, the Inspector of Schools, who is also the Educational District Officer for St. Kitts, and two part-time Educational District Officers—one for Nevis and one for Anguilla.

*Primary Education*

There are 32 Government schools in St. Kitts-Nevis, 17 in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis and five in Anguilla. These schools provide free primary education for children between the ages of five and 16. There is also in St. Kitts, the St. Joseph's R.C. School, managed by the Roman Catholic Church and assisted with a Government grant-in-aid of £60 per annum. Five of the schools are housed in Government buildings and the remainder in buildings owned by various denominations and rented to the Government.

The numbers of pupils on school rolls and average attendances in the three islands of the Presidency, at 31st December, 1948, were as follows :

	<i>On roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
St. Kitts . . . . .	5,434	3,796
Nevis . . . . .	2,864	2,163
Anguilla . . . . .	1,210	899
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>6,858</b>

There is provision under the law for compelling the attendance at school of children between the ages of five and 13, but this has not been enforced during the year under review as school places are not yet available for all of the children.

*Secondary Education*

The Boys' Grammar School and Girls' High School in St. Kitts are Government institutions.

Scholarships tenable at these schools during 1948 were as follows :

<i>Grammar School</i>	<i>Girls' High School</i>
20 Government Scholarships	20 Government Scholarships
2 Sugar Factory Scholarships	14 Teacher-Training Scholarships
1 Trades and Labour Union Scholarship	
10 Teacher-Training Scholarships	
<hr/> 33	<hr/> 34
<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>



The non-grant aided Convent High School in St. Kitts for boys and girls is managed by the Roman Catholic Church, and the teachers are all Convent sisters.

The Excelsior School in Nevis, which received a grant-in-aid of £275 during 1948, is also a mixed school. Three Government Scholarships, of a total value of £24, are tenable at the school.

There are no secondary schools in Anguilla.

The numbers on rolls and average attendances at the secondary schools at 31st December, 1948, were as follows :

	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
Boys' G.S. . . . .	109	100
Girls' H.S. . . . .	128	118
Convent High School . . .	156	154
Excelsior School . . . .	47	45
	<hr/> 440	<hr/> 417

### *Teachers*

The teaching establishment at 31st December, 1948, was as follows :

#### SECONDARY

##### *Specialist Teachers (on Education Administration Staff)*

- 2 Senior Assistant Masters
- 2 Assistant Mistresses

##### *Boys' Grammar School*

- Headmaster
- 2 Senior Assistant Masters
- 2 Assistant Masters
- 1 Temporary Assistant Master —employed in connection with a teacher-training scheme.

##### *Girls' High School*

- Headmistress
- First Assistant Mistress
- Second Assistant Mistress
- 3 Assistant Mistresses
- 1 Temporary Assistant Mistress employed in connection with a teacher-training scheme.

#### PRIMARY

- 4 Supervising Teachers.
- 18 Certificated Teachers, Class I
- 63 Certificated Teachers, Class II
- 79 Uncertificated Teachers
- 131 Pupil Teachers, of whom 50 were employed under a Development and Welfare Scheme.

### *Training of Teachers*

In 1948, two teachers were sent to the Government Training College for Teachers in Trinidad. One teacher was enrolled for a

special course in housecraft in Barbados, and two were sent to the Spring Gardens Training College in Antigua.

A further seven intending teachers were selected and sent to the Government secondary schools for a three-year course during the year.

### *Cost of Education*

Expenditure on education in 1948 was as follows :

Primary Education.	. . . . .	\$157,369
Secondary Education	. . . . .	21,427
From C.D. and W. Funds	. . . . .	6,824
Administration	. . . . .	4,476
		<hr/>
		\$190,096

### MONTserrat

The public expenditure on education amounted to some \$68,315, the expenditure on primary education being \$16.09 per child of an enrolment of 3,287, and that on secondary education being \$35.71 per child of an enrolment of 136.

The Cambridge Local Syndicate agreed to recognise the Montserrat Secondary School as an "approved school" for the award of Certificate "A." This is a privilege enjoyed only by the leading first-grade schools in these parts, and for this reason there is just cause for satisfaction at the decision of the Syndicate.

The Presidency benefited from the provision made in the General Estimates for assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act in regard to employment of additional pupil teachers, secondary schooling for prospective teachers, and the conducting of a vacation course for the primary school teachers calculated to improve their teaching technique, to widen their interest in community affairs, and to deepen their sense of professional unity.

Provision under a local vote of \$768 was made towards the training of a female student for the teaching service at the Teachers' Training College, Antigua, while the expenses of the training of two other students for the teaching service at the Government Training College, Trinidad, was borne by a Federal allocation for the training of male teachers.

As regards adult education, the St. George's Progressive Society, a voluntary body which was organised in 1940 with the aim of developing the cultural background of the people of the district, was reorganised in February, 1948, on a wider basis with the ultimate objective of bringing the influence of the Society to bear on the entire life of the community. The Society conducts night classes of two types: one for aiding people, who, for one reason or another, were compelled to leave school too soon, to reach the level of Standard VII in the primary school system; and the other is a literacy scheme to teach people the

three R's. The Society was also able to arrange for the holding of musical evenings, lectures and talks to members and weekly reviews of current events.

A milk-and-cocoa distribution scheme, as well as a Dental Service scheme, were important school welfare projects maintained during the year.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

### *Elementary*

There are 12 elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, eight of them situated in Tortola, two in Virgin Gorda, and one each in Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Ten schools are managed by the Methodist Church, one by the Anglican Church and one, which is divided into two departments, junior and infant, by the Government. Only three schools meet in buildings erected for that purpose; the remaining nine are held in churches. During the year an infant school for 45 pupils at Carrott Bay was built by the Methodist Church with assistance from Government.

The total roll is 1,370 out of an estimated elementary school age population of 1,560. Attendance is compulsory for children over five and under 12 who live within a radius of two miles of the schools, but in practice this law is not enforced. Attendance is voluntary from 12 to 15. The average attendance is 825.

### *Secondary*

There is one Government school which provides secondary education. It has a roll of 51 children. Six children were entered for the Cambridge Junior Certificate in 1948.

### *Teachers*

There are two teachers of Class I and four teachers of Class II. There are 17 uncertificated teachers and 44 pupil-teachers.

### *Expenditure*

The total expenditure on education (including library services, handicraft instruction, etc.) in 1948 was estimated at \$33,357, of which \$4,122 was from Development and Welfare Grants.

## HEALTH

The Colony during 1948, as for many years past, enjoyed freedom from any outbreak of serious epidemic diseases. The naturally good health conditions were, however, adversely affected by the prolonged drought which continued from 1947 through the first eight months of 1948. This was particularly true of Antigua, where deficient rainfall resulted in a serious dislocation of pipe-borne water supplies. Enteric fevers showed an unduly high prevalence, and diarrhoea and enteritis caused a high mortality amongst children of the native population under two years of age. On the other hand, the dry weather conditions were favourable to the control of malaria, and the number of cases of this disease reported during the year was the lowest on record.

The common respiratory affections, diseases of the digestive system including worms and skin affections accounted for the greatest number of cases attended by the Medical Officers. Vitamin-deficiency diseases showed some increase in those areas in which fresh vegetables were scarce because of deficient rainfall. The vital statistics for the Colony as a whole were not as favourable as in 1947 ; the birth rate was about 33 per 1,000 of population which was lower than in any year since 1942 ; the death rate was about 16 per 1,000 of population and the infant mortality rate about 110 per 1,000 live births. The Presidencies of St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat fared better than did Antigua, and both Nevis and Montserrat had death rates of below 13 per 1,000 of population.

The medical services were maintained as in previous years, with five full-time Medical Officers in charge of public health and institutional work and 15 District Medical Officers rendering medical aid to the general population and performing also certain preventive duties. Hospital facilities and accommodation were fully utilised during the year with a total of more than 5,000 admissions, including over 2,000 cases treated in the Holberton Hospital, Antigua. Dental care was provided for school children and certain other classes of persons in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat through visits of Dental Officers employed on a contract basis. Maternal and child health work was carried out through the agency of the health centres established since 1943 with the assistance of grants approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, and the work of the venereal diseases and yaws clinics was extended in each of the four Presidencies. In addition to the bacteriological laboratories already functioning in Antigua and St. Kitts, laboratory work was started during the year in Montserrat and a new laboratory was constructed at Tortola in the Virgin Islands.

The Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis sub-units of the Public Health Engineering Unit and the Malaria Control Unit for the Windward and Leeward Islands continued to collaborate with the local health departments in their efforts to improve sanitation. Their principal activities during the year were in relation to water supplies, sewage disposal and malaria control. A block grant of \$4,800 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for sanitary works in the Leeward Islands was allocated to a programme of communal latrine construction in the country villages in Antigua and an individual house latrine programme in St. Kitts introducing the bore-hole type of latrine. The Sanitary Superintendent for the Leeward Islands continued his programme of training of sanitary inspectors in St. Kitts-Nevis while the senior sanitary inspector of that Presidency proceeded for a course of training at the Public Health Training Centre in Jamaica. This course of training was made possible through a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Funds provided in Colonial Estimates for the medical and health departments, including hospitals and other medical institutions but excluding homes for the aged and infirm and out-door poor relief,



TRACTORS AND BULLOCKS OPERATE SIDE BY SIDE ON THIS SUGAR ESTATE AT ST. KITTS

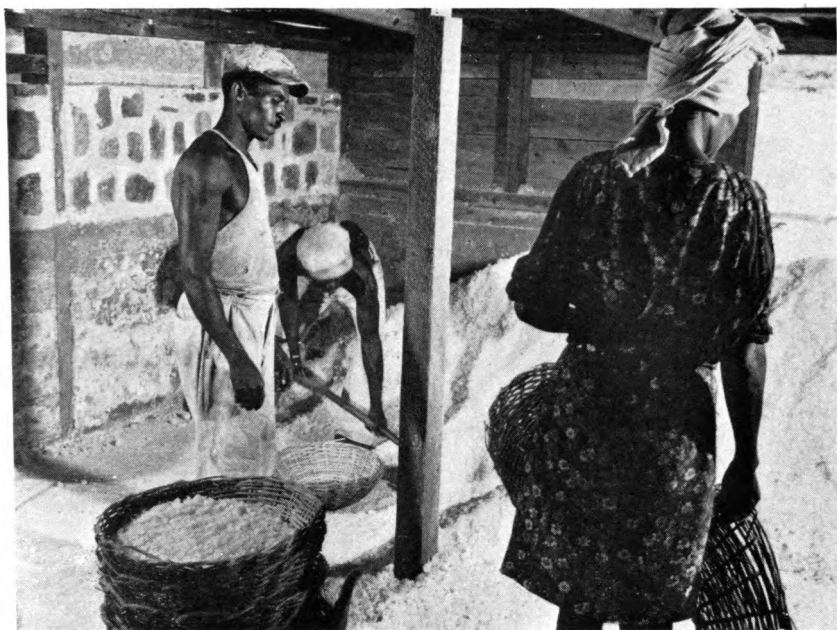


OLD NAVAL DOCKYARD, ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA  
*The roof of the Sailcloth Store has completely collapsed*



BRIMSTONE HILL, 18TH-CENTURY FORTRESS IN ST. KITTS



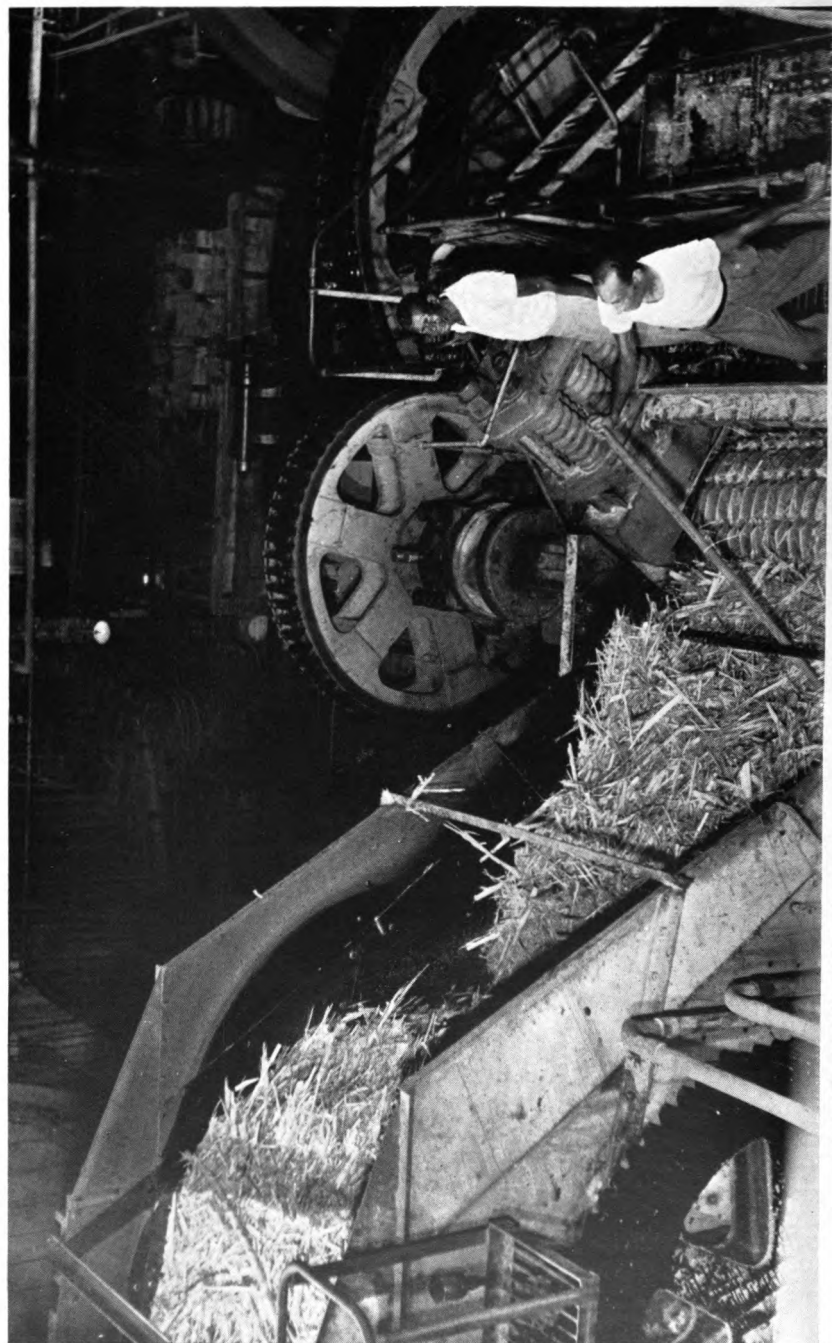


LOADING SALT FROM THE ST. KITTS SALT PONDS  
FOR THE CRUSHING MACHINE



MOLINEUX SCHOOL, ST. KITTS

*The school was built with a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant on land presented by the Molineux Sugar Estate*



SUGAR CANE CRUSHING AT THE ST. KITTS BASSETERRE SUGAR FACTORY



amounted to a total of nearly \$534,000. Of this amount, approximately \$30,000 was in the form of Colonial Development and Welfare grants for health schemes in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. The total was the equivalent of \$4.93 per head of population. The estimated cost of maintenance of hospitals, leper homes and care of the insane was about \$367,000, while an additional \$78,500 was provided for the maintenance of homes for the aged and infirm and for out-door poor relief.

#### ANTIGUA

##### *Country Board of Health*

The activities of the Country Board of Health during 1948 included the following :

- (a) routine inspections of premises throughout the island outside the limits of the City of St. John ;
- (b) inspection of bakeries in the villages ;
- (c) scavenging of the principal villages and efforts to control fly breeding ;
- (d) mosquito control, with special reference to malaria, by oiling and spraying ;
- (e) investigation and control of communicable diseases, particularly the enteric fevers ;
- (f) inspection of water supplies and co-operation with the Water Board in the control of distribution of village supplies ;
- (g) the servicing of village and school latrines ;
- (h) construction of additional public conveniences in the villages.

Routine anti-malaria measures, carried out in co-operation with the Malaria Control Unit for the Windward and Leeward Islands, and facilitated by the dry weather conditions experienced during 1947 and 1948, have reduced the incidence of malaria to a very remarkable extent.

On the other hand, the incidence of typhoid and para-typhoid increased considerably during the year. This increase was attributed to the drought conditions which resulted in a dislocation of pipe-borne water supplies, and to the use of water for drinking purposes from unsafe and untreated sources. All reported cases were investigated, isolation in hospital was instituted whenever possible, and prophylactic inoculations given to household and neighbourhood contacts. About 6,000 persons received prophylactic inoculation.

The Public Health Engineering Unit and the Village Boards co-operated with the Country Board of Health in the construction of new public latrines in eight villages, including All Saints, English Harbour, Falmouth, Five Islands, Liberta, Johnson's Point, Urlings and Old Road. Plans of construction, including those for the recently introduced aqua privy, were prepared by the Public Health Engineering Unit which assisted also with the necessary funds.

The funds at the disposal of the Country Board of Health during 1948 amounted to approximately \$19,200 and the sum of \$2,400 was made available by the Public Health Engineering Unit towards the public latrine construction programme.

## HOUSING

### ANTIGUA

Houses in St. John occupied by the poorer sections are for the greatest part wooden buildings constructed with imported lumber. They are in the majority of cases in poor condition.

In the country districts, a timber-framed house is the chief type of dwelling owned and occupied by the greater number of the poorer section. Approximately 32 per cent are of sound construction and 58 per cent are unsound but capable of repair within economic limits.

The city and country authorities inspect them and enforce the sanitary laws but at present no plan of slum clearance has been initiated nor are there any schemes to assist owners to improve their dwellings.

Bills regarding town and country planning and slum clearance and housing are in draft and it is expected that, following their passage in the near future, steps will be taken to implement them both in the city and country.

### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

The poorer sections of the community in both urban and rural areas live in semi-detached houses of one or two rooms. In the main these houses are constructed of timber and have roofs covered with galvanised iron, "Wallaba" shingles, genasco felt shingles and a few with local grass. There still exist in rural areas houses built entirely of local grass with wooden floors and shutters. Cooking facilities in both areas are still very primitive, and sanitary accommodation almost non-existent.

In urban areas 40 per cent of the residents live in their own houses but in rural areas 90 per cent live in their own houses and the remaining 10 per cent live mainly in houses provided by the estates.

The housing is generally in need of repair, and of enlargement to alleviate overcrowding.

A Central Housing and Planning Authority for the Presidency has been created under the housing legislation which came into force on 1st January, 1949. The Authority is now considering the necessary action to be taken to alleviate existing conditions.

### MONTSERRAT

The housing of the island is all privately owned and control is maintained by the operation of the Public Health Ordinance. Structurally the houses are built of imported lumber with galvanised roof covering or shingles. Local lumber is sometimes used.

The houses vary in size and height—one or two storeys according to land accommodation and taste, with an average height of 12 feet. The better class of house is well constructed and is usually supplied with a water-borne system of sewage disposal. The poorer inhabitants, however, are still found packed in tenement houses deficient in light and air.

The Housing Scheme under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, which was financed by a loan of £5,000 from the fund, has now been completed. £2,606 was spent on building 26 concrete houses for the labouring classes in different parts of the island in an attempt to solve the housing problem created by the severe hurricanes of 1924 and 1928. These houses were given out on a hire purchase system, and the great majority of tenants have proved satisfactory.

### SOCIAL WELFARE

#### ANTIGUA

##### *Social Welfare Adviser*

Miss D. Ibberson, C.B.E., the Social Welfare Adviser on the staff of the Colonial Development and Welfare Organisation, toured the Colony from 28th May to 17th June, and met various Committees and bodies engaged in welfare work and paid visits to Government departments and institutions. The Social Welfare Officer accompanied Miss Ibberson on her tour in the Presidency.

##### *Inter-Departmental*

The Social Welfare Officer served on the Rehabilitation Committee for ex-Servicemen and on the Sugar Industry Welfare Board under the chairmanship of the Federal Labour Officer, and was subsequently appointed Chairman of the new Labour Welfare Fund Committee set up under the Sugar Export Cess Ordinance, 1947. The Committee has been engaged on working out proposals for a housing loan scheme. Useful co-operation has also been maintained with the Medical Department. The Social Welfare Department has interested itself in the welfare side of the institutions and the Social Welfare Officer has been appointed to serve as Secretary of a board set up under the chairmanship of the ophthalmologist to advise on welfare schemes for the blind. Progress has been made in the educational work in the Prison.

##### *Projects*

*Youth Service.* Encouragement has continued to be given to efforts designed to benefit the young people in the community. Youth organisations have been assisted with equipment, training of leaders and guidance through the Youth Service Advisory Committee. The Secretary of the Antigua Youth Council (Miss H. Francis) was accepted by the Comptroller for training on the Jamaica Social Welfare Course as a voluntary worker.

A small room of the Social Welfare Department has been set aside as a meeting place at the disposal of a few groups that previously

had no facility for indoor meetings but this is in the nature of a makeshift. It is hoped that circumstances will eventually make it possible for a proper Youth Centre to be acquired. Voluntary subscriptions to the fund for this purpose now total \$870.

The Probation Service has kept in close touch with the Boys' Reformatory. With emphasis placed on a liberal treatment of the reformatory boys and the encouragement of free discipline among them there has been some improvement in the tone of the Institution. The Probation Officer has received money to buy clothes for a few probationers.

*Handicrafts.* Classes in handicrafts making use of local materials continued throughout the year. Over a hundred girls have now received some teaching from the Instructress, who was trained at the C.D. and W. Handicraft School in Trinidad. A training centre has now been established in the village of All Saints and further financial aid has been given to the project by the welfare fund of the sugar industry in the interest of its rural workers. The beginnings made in this scheme have raised hopes for its further development into a minor industry for the island, but it is not yet clear as to how far development along these lines can be pushed. However, the standard of work done in such local materials as sisal, palms, and rushes has begun to improve, and benefit is accruing to peasant homes.

*Co-operation.* Efforts were continued to help groups interested in the study of the co-operative movement, but set-backs have been encountered in connection with initial projects due in large measure to the general unsettled conditions prevailing in the island. Saving groups including some on agricultural land settlements and trade union sections were encouraged and aided with prepared books and rules. Available information showed that these groups had about \$400, and though small, this amount proved of value during the period of drought conditions.

*General.* An impetus to general community welfare services has been sustained and the quickening of interest has been reflected in the activities of voluntary bodies. Government institutions have benefited from the interest shown by such public spirited bodies, notably the joint Labour/Management Welfare Committee of the sugar industry which has made generous gifts of radio receiving sets to the Leper Home, the Fiennes Institution, the Boys' Training School and the Mental Hospital; and the local branch of the Red Cross Society and other bodies have continued to perform useful service in the interest of inmates of those institutions.

#### *The Relief of the Destitute and Disabled*

Indoor pauper relief was provided at the Fiennes Institution with accommodation for around 100 inmates, on a Government vote of \$16,000. Inmates are encouraged to occupy themselves by helping generally with the domestic routine work of the Institution and in

gardening and simple handicraft. By way of compensation a small gratuity of about 36 cents quarterly is given in cash and tobacco.

The Board of Guardians administered outdoor poor relief to 1,250 cases (destitute, aged, orphans and destitute children, discharged lepers, etc.). Expenditure amounted to \$19,000. Interest has been shown in the welfare of the destitute and disabled by private individuals and voluntary organisations such as the local Red Cross Society, Toc H Society and Burnt Cane Fund Committee.

### *Juvenile Delinquency*

One hundred and nine juvenile cases were tried before the courts during the year for offences including theft, vagrancy, wounding and general disorderly conduct. Forty-seven cases of whipping were recorded. There were 12 juveniles on probation during the year and the roll of the Boys' Training School was 20. The response from the probationers was good and efforts have been made to improve the tone of the Training School. The Salvation Army has done very useful work. The local officer in charge (Major Simons) is Probation Officer, and this method of treatment is receiving more attention, both in connection with juvenile and adult offenders.

### ST. KITTS

*The Promotion of Community Life.* Three rural associations, each having a council, functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. Each association is composed of member organisations and individual members, representative of all sections of its particular community. The associations are affiliated to the Social Welfare Advisory Committee.

*Savings Unions.* Five savings unions were run under the supervision of the Social Welfare Department. One of the unions was attached to a youth club in Basseterre ; the other four were for adult groups in the rural areas. Deposits dropped considerably during the strike.

*Youth Work.* A Youth Organiser was appointed during the year. Thirty-six clubs were organised throughout the island by voluntary workers, most of whom are teachers in elementary schools. Scouts, Guides and Church organisations carried out their usual activities.

*Handicrafts.* A Handicraft Instructress from the Education Department was seconded for duty with the Social Welfare Department from 1st January, 1948. Classes were conducted in three rural areas.

In Basseterre classes were run for members of youth clubs, attendants at institutions, clerks and teachers and scholars from elementary and secondary schools. Useful and saleable articles are made from sanseveira and straw.

*Rural Reading Rooms.* These are established at convenient places throughout the island. The books are provided by the British Council and they are circulated from the Central Library in Basseterre.

There is a library at the Social Welfare Office. Books from this library were circulated to adults and children and periodicals were sent to clubs, societies and institutions.

*School-feeding.* School-feeding was supervised by the Service League—a branch of an organisation which started as a voluntary body. Meals were served at a penny per meal at all the elementary schools. Needy children were given meals free.

*Relief of the Destitute and Disabled.* For purposes of giving public assistance to the destitute and disabled, Poor Law Boards are established at Basseterre, Cayon and at the Northern District.

The rates of allowances at the Basseterre Board are 24c. to 30c. per week for each enlisted child and 48c. to 72c. per week for each enlisted adult. In Basseterre \$7,195 approximately was paid out in allowances to 398 persons and this Board gave a grant of \$48 to the Cardin Home to assist in providing a Christmas dinner for the inmates. In Cayon \$1,178 approximately was paid to about 100 persons, and \$4,128 approximately was administered in the Northern District.

*Juvenile Delinquency and Probation.* A Probation Officer was appointed on 1st January, 1948. Three boys and a girl were put on probation by order of the Court during the year. It was eventually found necessary to send one of the boys to a Training School in Antigua.

Attention was paid to many more delinquents whose misdemeanours were not detected by the police or otherwise brought to their notice. These delinquents were dealt with sympathetically and help in clothes and food was given to them from probation funds where this was found necessary. In every such case the co-operation of the parents was secured.

#### NEVIS

*The Promotion of Community Life.* Affiliated to the Social Welfare Department were three savings unions, two of these being in villages where an opportunity was afforded for group meetings and discussions.

A rural community association continued to provide a meeting ground for social and recreational activity.

The services of a school teacher seconded for handicraft training was of value to the Social Welfare Department in enabling instruction in cottage industries to be given to groups in two villages and at a centre in Charlestown. Local straws and fibres are used in this work.

Two girls' clubs operated successfully throughout the year.

In Charlestown a parent-teacher association was instrumental in controlling school-feeding throughout the island. It also raised funds for Christmas charities. The Social Welfare Department assisted the work of this organisation.

The Department continued to control the rural circulation of books loaned by the British Council's Regional Library, through established groups.

Public assistance to the destitute and disabled is administered by the Nevis Poor Law Board. In 1948 \$2,848 was paid out for outdoor relief, in weekly sums ranging from 36c. to 72c. per person, to some 140 paupers. In addition, \$144 was distributed for dinners at Christmas time.

Free housing is given to recommended cases in 12 small Government owned almshouses, and extreme cases of destitution and infirmity are taken into the Infirmary attached to the Alexandra Hospital.

#### ANGUILLA

*The Promotion of Community Life.* The Anguilla Community Association co-ordinates the activities of the various clubs, church organisations and youth movements affiliated to it.

The teaching of handicrafts in local sisal and straw continues most successfully and forms an important item in the programmes of the girls' and women's clubs.

An organisation known as the Anguilla Progressive Circle (one of the groups affiliated to the Community Association) has made a marked contribution to community life in the island. In addition to its regular literary activities, a weekly social evening is organised. During the year, the "Circle" also assumed responsibility for school-feeding in the district. An outstanding event was a Book Week in March, arranged in association with the British Council's Regional Branch in the island.

#### MONTSERRAT

There is no social welfare officer in this Presidency. There has recently been inaugurated a branch of the British Red Cross Society whose activities it is hoped will include some measure of social welfare. This body has, so far, taken a keen interest in the welfare of the inmates of the Infirmary.

Community centres have been formed, and visual education films and film strips have been demonstrated.

There is no probation officer, and juvenile delinquency is in the hands of the Magistrate.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Virgin Islands Social Welfare Council continued to do good work assisted by contributions from the British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association of New York, Inc. The system of outdoor relief, financed by the Government, continued. No very serious cases of juvenile delinquency came to light during the year. There is no professional probation officer in the Presidency but some use was made of the services of voluntary workers.

## Chapter 8 : Legislation

Fifteen Federal Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the year 1948. Of these, the most important were :

(i) An Act to make provision for divorce and matrimonial causes and other matters connected therewith. By this Act all the provisions of the law relating to divorce and matrimonial causes now in force in the United Kingdom by virtue of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1925 (15 & 16 Geo. 5 c. 49) and the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1937 (1 Edw. 8 & 1 Geo. 6 c. 57) were extended to the Colony.

(ii) An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1939, by which the practice and procedure in force in the United Kingdom in divorce and matrimonial causes were extended to the Colony. This Act also gives to litigants a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands in certain matters within the jurisdiction of that Court.

(iii) An Act to make provision for the registration, regulation and supervision of factories throughout the Colony and for safeguarding workers employed therein against accidents.

(iv) An Act to provide for the establishment and constitution of juvenile courts in the several magisterial districts of the Colony.

(v) An Act to amend further the Police Pensions Act, 1929. The main feature of this Act is the provision of a pension to the dependants of non-commissioned officers and privates of the Police Force who die as a result of injuries received in the discharge of their duty.

(vi) An Act to make provision as to the immunities, privileges and capacities of international organisations of which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and foreign Governments are members, and also to confer on the staffs of such organisations and the representatives of member Governments certain immunities and privileges.

(vii) An Act to amend further the Police Act (Cap. 84). This Act clarifies the position with regard to the enlistment of non-commissioned officers and privates in the Police Force and establishes in the Force an organisation known as the Police Welfare Association.

(viii) An Act to amend further the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61). This Act extends the grounds on which maintenance orders against husbands in respect of their wives may be made by Magistrates who are also empowered to include in such orders a provision for the separation of the parties while the orders are in force.

In the Presidency of Antigua 15 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1948. Of these the most important were :

(i) An Ordinance to provide for the generation and supply of electricity, the operation of a cold storage plant and the manufacture and sale of ice by a Board established under the Ordinance. The



Ordinance vested in the Board the whole of the undertaking formerly operated by the Antigua Electric Light Company Limited.

(ii) An Ordinance to make provision for the housing of persons of the working classes, the acquisition, reconstruction and management of slum clearance and re-development areas, the improvement of unhealthy areas and the repair or demolition of insanitary buildings.

(iii) An Ordinance to make provision for the orderly and progressive development of land, towns and other areas both urban and rural.

(iv) An Ordinance to regulate and control prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals and the export thereof.

In the Presidency of Saint Christopher and Nevis 13 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1948. Of these, the most important were :

(i) An Ordinance to make provision for the housing of persons of the working classes, the acquisition, reconstruction and management of slum clearance and re-development areas, the improvement of unhealthy areas and the repair or demolition of insanitary buildings.

(ii) An Ordinance to make provision for the orderly and progressive development of lands, towns and other areas both urban and rural.

(iii) An Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licence Ordinance, 1906, so as to introduce a new class of licence and to increase the fee payable in respect of certain other licences.

(iv) An Ordinance to empower the Governor to prohibit meetings and processions in certain circumstances and to make other provision in the interest of good order and the safety of the public.

(v) An Ordinance to regulate and control prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals and the export thereof.

In the Presidency of Montserrat six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1948. Of these, the Ordinance regulating and controlling prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals and the export thereof was the most important.

In the Presidency of the Virgin Islands three Ordinances were made during 1948. Of these, the most important were :

(i) An Ordinance to amend further the Denominational School Teachers' Pension (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931 ; and

(ii) An Ordinance to regulate and control prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals and the export thereof.

## Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

From 1st January, 1940, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and, by virtue of an Order in Council of His Majesty entitled the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, one Superior Court of Record styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands was created for

the Colonies of Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands. This Court is presided over by a Chief Justice and Puisne Judges of whom there are three in number. Circuit Courts with a jury of nine for the trial of criminal cases are held in the various islands of the Colony as follows: in Antigua in the months of January, May and October ; St. Christopher in the months of February, July and November ; and in Nevis in the months of April and November ; in Montserrat in the months of March and October and in the Virgin Islands in the month of April. The Attorney General or the Crown Attorneys have the function of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction, without a jury, for the trial of civil cases where less than £50 is involved, is held contemporaneously with the Circuit Courts, except in the case of the Virgin Islands where the sitting of that Court is also fixed for the months of August and December. Appeals from both of these Courts lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was created by the Imperial Order in Council of 1939) against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters, and to the West Indian Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of first instance and by leave from any interlocutory order made in the course of any proceedings.

Summary criminal offences are dealt with by Magistrates in each Presidency. Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of the Judge may be had to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

The following shows the number of convictions in the Supreme Court, 1948 :

Murder of wife or concubine . . . . .	—
Murder of child . . . . .	1
Murder other than wife, concubine or child . . . . .	3
Attempted murder . . . . .	3
Rape . . . . .	—
Unnatural crime . . . . .	—
Other offences against the person . . . . .	10
Praedial larceny . . . . .	—
Offences against property with violence to the person . . . . .	51
Other offences against property . . . . .	—
Other crimes . . . . .	4
	—
	72
	—

#### POLICE

The establishment of the Leeward Islands Police Force was the same as in 1947.

Early in 1948, due to strikes in the sugar industry and unrest, the Force was called upon to do much extra duty.

Brigadier Mavrogordato's Report on conditions in the Force was published.

A Committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to consider the salaries and allowances of other ranks of the Force. Increases, both in salaries and allowances were recommended, and approved by the Secretary of State.

On the recommendation of this Committee, the Secretary of State approved the appointment of three Inspectors to the establishment.

Two new police stations were built—one in Antigua and one in Nevis. Several country stations and the Basseterre Headquarters need general repairs and improvement.

The C.I.D. in Antigua and St. Kitts is now well established and several hundreds of fingerprints are filed.

In spite of many successful convictions against smugglers, smuggling, especially of American cigarettes, is prevalent.

There were 3,497 more criminal cases in 1948 than in 1947.

There was a brutal murder committed in St. Kitts in March. At the first trial the jury disagreed. At the second trial the accused was convicted, but appealed. The appeal was dismissed. The accused appealed to the Privy Council who dismissed the appeal, and the accused was executed.

#### PRISONS

The Central Prison for the Colony is at St. John's, Antigua, and accommodates all Antigua prisoners and the long-term prisoners from St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. Short-term prisoners are held in each Presidency. The Central Prison can accommodate 120 males and 30 females, and is staffed by a head warder, senior warder, matron, 16 warders, five temporary warders and one wardress. \$20,100 was spent on wages in 1948.

Male prisoners are employed in carpentry, tin-smithing, shoe-making and baking. The female prisoners spend most of their time at cleaning, laundry and sewing.

Elementary education on a small scale is given to young illiterate prisoners under the guidance and supervision of the Social Welfare Officer.

The prison bakery made over 40,000 lb. of bread during the year, supplying the Prison and Training School.

The ten acres of land at Friar's Hill, allocated to the Prison by the Agricultural Department, is completely enclosed and a hut has been erected on it to accommodate six first offenders. It is proposed to add, in time, two additional huts to hold 14 more first offenders. This will help considerably with the plan to separate first offenders from recidivists.

During the month of May, the Keeper of Prisons represented the Leeward Islands at a Conference of Prison Officers held in Barbados.

Three hundred and fifty-six males and 23 females were committed during the year; 43 males from the other Presidencies were admitted to the Central Prison. The daily average was 123.25 males, and 2.33 females.

There are 66 individual cells for males and 25 for females. Ten association cells for five males each, and one for females. There is an average of over 500 cubic feet of cell space per prisoner. There is also an infirmary on the male side, and another on the female side. The Prison Surgeon pays visits three times weekly, and daily if required. Prisoners who are very ill are treated under suitable precautions at the island Hospital.

There are six Visiting Justices to the Prison who hold meetings to inquire into complaints, and to try serious cases of breach of prison discipline.

## Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

### ANTIGUA

*Telephone System.* The Presidency is served by a publicly owned telephone system of a total capacity of 400 subscribers. The system is an earth return magneto type, of ancient vintage. It is at present unable to cope with the growing demand for telephonic communication locally, especially in the city or central area.

The system comprises one central and two sub-exchanges, the former of a capacity of 300 subscribers and the two latter of 50 each. It still continues to give good service though there is need of a more modern and extensive service, and bearing this fact in mind the policy of Government is to maintain the present system in good working order without incurring unnecessary capital expenditure by trying to extend its present capacity.

*Electric Light Service.* The present electric light system has been taken over by Government from the Antigua Electric Light Company, Ltd. It is a 220-volt direct current system and is totally inadequate for the needs of the present community. Like the telephone system, the demands upon it are greater than it can meet, with the result that only some parts of the city area are lit electrically.

The wiring generally needs replacing throughout the town, but difficulties of supply and transport preclude any hope of immediate improvement.

*Water Supply.* The public water supplies of Antigua in normal years have been described in the Annual Report for 1947, page 36. Unfortunately, the September and November rains failed in 1947. Although 37 inches fell between the New Year and 1st September, the soil and climate of Antigua are such that no benefit is obtained unless about two inches falls at one time. Therefore the innumerable showers and even a few falls of over half an inch of rain at one time had no effect upon the ponds, which are the main source of water for man and beast. Those houses which store the water from their roofs had enough for drinking purposes and some washing, but guttering and spouting are relatively expensive and most of the water that fell

in the town might be seen running to waste in the sea. While the drought lasted there was a strong public demand for legislation to make the conservation of rain water caught on roofs compulsory, but as soon as the distress was over, the avoidance of expense seemed more important.

As has been described in Part I, all the reservoirs and ponds were dry. The city of St. John's was dependent on water pumped from certain wells which enabled the Water Board to provide a supply of 100,000 gallons through the mains every third day or about three gallons per head per day. In the country, the Government delivered tanks of water to various villages as often as possible.

During the drought Body Ponds, which is the main source of supply for the capital, was cleared as part of a scheme of relief work. The storage capacity of these ponds was increased by 4,878,000 gallons. They hold sufficient water to supply the city for 15 days at the normal rate of consumption or to give a daily supply at the emergency rate for two months. A good fall of rain in October filled these enlarged ponds and the Government is now better equipped to face another drought. Sixteen other ponds in various parts of the country were also cleaned to give additional storage of about a million gallons.

A plan for the construction of a dam to impound water in Christian Valley, the largest catchment area in the south-western hills, was prepared. The necessary land had been acquired and during the year a plant which had been used for the construction of the Mona dam in Jamaica arrived in Antigua. It was necessary, however, to dig trial pits and analyse the earth before the final design of the dam could be made, and work proceeded on this during the year. Meanwhile Mr. Claude Bell, a water diviner of considerable reputation in Jamaica, visited Antigua at the personal expense of the Governor and indicated that there was a considerable underground stream in Christian Valley which, if tapped, might provide enough water without the construction of a dam. He could not say whether the water would be fresh or saline, but it was decided that it was worth obtaining a drilling rig and testing this water, both for quality and quantity, before incurring the considerable expense of the dam. Accordingly the Federal Engineer visited London in November and the necessary arrangements were made.

Consequent on the findings of Mr. Bell, a well was dug at the Government Agricultural Station at Friars Hill, Antigua, and this has produced water fit for animals and ground produce. Four other wells have been dug with similar success.

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

*Electricity.* The total output of the station is 134 kw., consisting of two 32 kw. sets and one 70 kw. Voltage is 480-230 d.c.

The capacity of the plant is inadequate, and in consequence is overloaded. No additional consumers have been connected for more than a year as a result.

*Ice and Cold Storage.* This consists of a three-cylinder Hall's compressor driven by a horizontal Crossley engine. The maximum output is five tons of ice per day which is insufficient to meet demands.

Cold storage facilities are provided by four cold rooms of 1,000 cu. ft. each and one ice storage room (2,000 cu. ft.). The rooms were designed for fruit and vegetable storage only.

*Water Supply.* The water supply of Basseterre is taken from a mountain stream at an elevation of approximately 1,300 ft. and conveyed to a service reservoir by approximately six miles of 8 in. diameter pipe line ; this reservoir is on the outskirts of the town at an elevation of 250 ft. to 300 ft. The treatment plant comprises eight sedimentation basins and four slow filters, the capacity of the sedimentation basin is approximately 350,000 gallons, and the sand filters have a combined area of 1,440 sq. ft. which provides a filtration rate of 18 million gallons per day per acre. The capacity of the pipe line is 348,000 gallons per day and the source has a considerable overflow during wet weather but falls to 250,000 gallons per day during droughts. The water is clear in dry weather, slightly turbid during light rain, and turbid during very wet periods, the consumption at the present time would be 450,000 to 470,000 gallons per day ; however, at drought periods it is necessary to shut off the supply from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The northern area water supply system is extensive and contains a considerable mileage of pipe lines mainly laid about 60 years ago, but no plan of this system is in existence. There are two sources, both mountain streams, which feed the district between Old Road and Sandy Point and Phillips' district ; both sources are close to one another on opposite sides of a saddle in the central ridge of St. Kitts, the villages along this route are served with water from concrete rat-proof tanks augmented by stand pipes at strategic points. Bath houses are provided at Sandy Point and Phillips' village, but villagers seem to have a preference for bathing in the sea and, as most villages skirt the shore, there is ample opportunity for this.

*Telephone System.* A magneto type ground return telephone system with three exchanges situated at Basseterre, Cayon and Sandy Point respectively serve approximately 238 subscribers.

#### MONTSERRAT

*Water.* Small mountain springs scattered throughout the island are the sole source of water supplies. The town of Plymouth, together with the southern part of the island west of the middle mountain chain, are supplied with water from four springs in the mountains east of the town. The output of three of these is brought to a reservoir on the high lands above the town. The discharge of the fourth spring is divided, part of it being piped to the southern villages of St. Patricks, Trials, Morris' and O'Haras. The remaining part of its output is piped to the Plymouth reservoir.

The Windward village of Harris' is supplied by water from Killiecrankie Spring on the west side of the mountain chain. A portion of the output of this spring is forced to a reservoir on the top of Windy Hill by hydraulic ram and from thence by gravity line to the main distribution reservoir at Paradise, above the village.

The other Windward villages of Farm, Bethel, Tuitts and Long Ground are supplied by gravity line from springs situated in "Bugby Hole." There are two of these springs, the second of which was purchased and joined to the existing system during 1948.

The middle section of the island on the Leeward coast is supplied from Hope Spring above Salem Village which is rented by Government from its owners. Several other springs also exist in this area—notably Runaway Ghut.

The Cudjoe Head District in the north is supplied from Fogarthy Spring. St. John's and the neighbouring villages are supplied from two springs—one at Underwood and the other at Ginger Ground. A third spring, also at Underwood, has been acquired by Government to augment the supply. The output of all of these springs is very small and the entire north end of the island has a very inadequate water supply.

*Telephones.* A telephone system serves most parts of the island and the service is of a fair standard. The system is of the two-wire metallic kind with one Central Exchange in Plymouth. Lines are run on overhead poles. Total connections at 31st December numbered 72. Of these, 35 were free telephones to Government Departments and officials who have this privilege. A sub-exchange at Harris' was closed in 1947 and all lines run to the main Plymouth switchboard.

*Public Works.* During the year the new building to be used as quarters for the Matron, Glendon Hospital, was commenced in the hospital grounds. At the year's close this building was almost complete.

The new Nurses' Hostel at the hospital was completed early in the year. The old wooden building formerly used was pulled down, transported to the Montserrat Secondary School and there re-erected and re-conditioned for use as an annex to the school building.

New public latrines of the P.H.E.U. pit type were built at Kinsale, Trials and Jubilee Town. New concrete public bathrooms were built at Trials, Kinsale, Cherry Village and Salem Village. The two former have not been connected to the water systems owing to lack of piping.

Considerable work on improving the drainage in Harris' Village was done. The existing earth drains through the village for taking off storm water were concreted.

Building of a teacher's house was started at Salem School late in the year. Work on this project ceased on 15th December—the funds provided having been exhausted. A further £150 will be needed to complete this building.

A new cell block was built in His Majesty's Prison between the chapel and junior officers' quarters. This provides three large accommodation cells.

The grounds of Glendon Hospital were fenced in with barbed wire and concrete poles.

The walls built in Fort Ghut for flood control were completed early in the year.

## Chapter II: Communications

### GENERAL

The principal developments in the year under review were the gradual improvement in the steamship services to the Colony from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and a considerable increase in the numbers of calls paid to the airports in the Colony by commercial aircraft.

The Canadian National Steamships from Canada, the Harrison Line from England and the Alcoa Steamship Company from Canada and New York have resumed regular sailings to the port of the Colony.

Communication between the islands of the Colony has been greatly improved by the inauguration in 1946 of a new service with the M.V. *Moneka*, owned and operated by a Company with headquarters in Montserrat. This service was augmented in 1948 by the addition of the M.V. *Caribbee*. These vessels also make frequent calls at islands in the Windward Group and Barbados.

There are two railways in the Colony used for the transport of sugar cane to the Central Factories and of sugar to the wharves.

The abolition of petrol rationing and the ability to import a moderate number of new cars has resulted in an increase in road traffic.

The airport at Coolidge Field in Antigua was opened to commercial traffic in February, 1946; Pan American Airways make daily calls and B.W.I. Airways have increased their calls to four days per week.

The B.W.I. Airways and K.L.M. Air Line make regular calls at the St. Kitts airport.

A considerable increase in the volume of airmail and air express to and from the Colony is recorded.

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., have extended their wireless telephone service from Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat to the principal islands in the British West Indies, Canada and the United Kingdom.



## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 422 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degree of west longitude, and between the 15th and 19th degrees of north latitude ; but Anguilla, Sombrero, and still more the Virgins group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, etc.) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, whilst Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain. Nevis was a fashionable health resort in the 18th century on account of its hot medicinal baths which may still be used at the Old Bath House Hotel.

The island of Anguilla claims to be the healthiest in the Colony. Antigua is in most respects different from its neighbours, having no high mountains and rather too low a rainfall to enable the inhabitants to make the most of the fertility of the land.

The climate of the island varies, but is usually dry and fairly healthy. Antigua is subject to drought, and has an average rainfall of about 45 inches ; St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat have average rainfalls of from 50 to 60 inches. The mean temperature is about 80° with but a slight range. The Virgin Islands are cooler. The hot season is from May to October ; the rainy season from August to January. The mean temperature is 79°F.

### Chapter 2: History

The Colony of the Leeward Islands was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493.

Politically the Colony is divided into four Presidencies : (a) Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda ; (b) St. Christopher-Nevis, with Anguilla ; (c) Montserrat ; and (d) the British Virgin Islands (which are in close proximity to the American Virgin Islands). These four Presidencies have been united and separated at various times in their history, and were finally federated in 1871 by an Imperial Act.

From a historical point of view the Leeward Islands Colony is one of the most interesting in the Empire.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be systematically colonised by the English, Sir Thomas Warner, Captain of the King's Body Guard, bringing out a number of farmers and artisans for that purpose in 1623. In 1666, 1689 and 1782 it was captured by the French, and in the latter year the famous defence of Brimstone Hill took place, a gallant action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French fleet at "The Saints," near Dominica, and save the then Colonial Empire. Basseterre, the capital of the island was destroyed by fire in 1867 and by a flood in 1880. Built by the French in 1670, the original Anglican Church came into possession of the English in 1713 at the Peace of Utrecht.

In Nevis, in 1787, Nelson, then aged 25, and acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, married the young widow Nisbet. In 1757 Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter and the chief drafter of the American Constitution, was born in Nevis. The remains of the house in which he was said to have been born are still to be seen in Charlestown, the capital of the island.

Antigua is the headquarters of the Colony and the residence of the Governor. The island was settled by Sir Thomas Warner's son in 1632, and only once, in 1666, was it captured and occupied, for less than a year, by the French. At Antigua is the historic Naval Dockyard, first built in 1725, where Nelson lived between 1785 and 1787. It lies in a romantic narrow inlet, English Harbour, and is to-day just as it was left when the last of the old frigates was warped out. Efforts are now being made to preserve the ruined buildings so that it may be an Empire memorial to the Navy.

Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632, but was captured (and subsequently restored) by the French in 1666 and 1782.

The Virgin Islands named after the well-known legend of St. Ursula and the eleven thousand virgins, were first settled by Dutch farmers, who became buccaneers in 1648. English buccaneers drove them out in 1666, and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony. For a long time the islands were the haunt of pirates.

The following are some of the important events which took place in the Colony between 1600 and 1900 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1607	Nevis visited by English colonists.
1623	Settlement of St. Christopher by Thomas Warner on 28th January.
1625	Antigua, St. Christopher, Nevis and Barbuda taken under Royal protection by patent under the Great Seal of England, 13th September.
	Thomas Warner, after a visit to England, and Sieur d'Esnambuc landed about the same day in St. Christopher.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1626	Commission given by Richelieu in October to Sieur d'Esnambuc to people the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and any other situated "at the entrance of Peru."
1627	Division of St. Christopher by the English and French. Grant by letters patent, dated 2nd June, to the Earl of Carlisle of all the Caribbean Islands including Barbados.
1628	Mr. Littleton, a planter at St. Christopher, obtained a grant of Barbuda.
1632	Antigua and Montserrat colonised from St. Christopher by Sir T. Warner and his son.
1640-47	Sugar manufactured in Barbados and the industry introduced into the Leeward Islands.
1648	Temporary settlement of Tortola by the Dutch.
1653	Carib raid at Antigua.
1661	Barbuda colonised from Antigua.
1666	St. Christopher taken by the French and many English inhabitants expelled. Antigua also invaded and plundered.
1667	Montserrat taken by the French (February). By the Treaty of Breda (21st July), the English part of St. Christopher and Antigua and Montserrat declared English.
1671	Leeward Islands separated from Barbados. Commission to Sir Charles Wheler as Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, with headquarters at Nevis (25th January).
1681	Antigua devastated by a hurricane.
1689	French planters expelled English settlers from St. Christopher.
1696	Antigua selected as the seat of Government.
1706	St. Christopher attacked by a French fleet. Capitulation of Nevis. Mr. Parke appointed Governor.
1710	Governor Parke killed.
1722	Hurricane in St. Christopher.
1769	Disastrous fire in St. John's, Antigua.
1774	The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February.
1782	Surrender of Brimstone Hill to the Marquis de Bouille (13th February). St. Christopher, Nevis and Montserrat captured. Victory of Rodney over de Grasse off the Saints (12th April).
1786	Visit to Antigua of Prince William Henry in the <i>Pegasus</i> frigate (Clarence House) with Captain Nelson of H.M.S. <i>Boreas</i> in attendance.
1789	Great drought in Antigua.
1807	Abolition of the slave trade.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1816	Antigua, Barbuda and Montserrat constituted a separate Government, while St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands were made a separate colony.
1857	Basseterre water supply established.
1871	Federation of the Leeward Islands. Hurricane in Antigua.
1871-74	Severe drought in Antigua.
1880	Visit of H.M.S. <i>Bacchante</i> with Prince George on board.
1884	Heavy depression in the sugar industry. Prince George again in the West Indies in H.M.S. <i>Canada</i> .
1891	Botanic Stations in St. Christopher and Nevis established. Skerritt's Training School opened. Dredging of St. John's Harbour commenced. Treasury Building at Basseterre erected.
1896	Great flood in Montserrat caused considerable destruction and loss of life. The flood was followed by several series of earthquakes.
1897	Appointment of Royal Commission to enquire into conditions and prospects of the West Indian Colonies with particular regard to the depression in the sugar industry. A Defence Force established in Antigua.
1898	Crown Colony system introduced in Antigua.
1899	Severe hurricane swept over Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, followed by a second storm which visited Antigua. Montserrat suffered heavy damage.
1910	Royal Commission on trade relations between Canada and the West Indies.
1916	Cyclone did considerable damage to the Virgin Islands.
1918	Labour unrest and rioting in Antigua over payment for cane-cutting. Commission appointed to consider most equitable way of computing wages for cane-cutters.
1920	Visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in H.M.S. <i>Renown</i> .
1924	Hurricane visited Montserrat.
1928	Hurricane visited Montserrat.
1937	Presidential Legislative Councils were reconstituted.
1940	Dominica was separated from the Leeward Islands Colony and grouped with the Windward Islands.

### Chapter 3: Administration

The Leeward Islands had a general Legislature as far back as the reign of William and Mary, but it met for the first time in 1798. An attempt was made to revive it in 1837 but it was not until 1871 that a Federal Constitution was granted by an Imperial Act.

There is one Governor of the Colony and his representatives in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis are styled Administrators, and in those of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The Colony possesses a Federal Executive and a General Legislative Council, the members of the former and the official members of the latter being appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter (three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis and two from Montserrat) are elected by and from the unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies. There is also a nominated unofficial member for the Virgin Islands on the General Legislative Council.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council, with the exception of the Virgin Islands, which has an Executive Council only. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects so far as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is limited to three years.

The Antigua Legislative Council, previously partly elected and partly nominated, passed an Act in 1898 abrogating itself and substituting the Crown Colony system. The St. Kitts and Nevis forms of Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, were abolished by an Act of 1878, and the Crown Colony system substituted. The Montserrat Legislative Council was similarly changed in 1866. There has been no Legislative Council in the Virgin Islands since 1902.

In 1936 steps were taken to reconstitute the Presidential Legislative Councils with unofficial majorities, and with partly elected and partly nominated unofficial members. The reconstituted Legislative Councils came into being in 1937.

The Governor normally resides in Antigua but he makes annual visits to the Presidencies from where, for the time being, he administers the Government of the Colony.

The business of Central Government is carried on, subject to any governing legislation, by the following departments of Government : Administration, Agriculture, Audit, Education, Labour, Legal, Medical, Police, Post Office, Prisons, Public Works, Social Welfare, Supply, Treasury and Customs. Many statutory and other boards and committees assist the work of the departments. The Annual Reports of each of these departments are presented each year for laying on the table at the General Legislative Council.

#### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

In Antigua (St. John's) there is a (partly unofficial) municipal body called the City Commissioners. This body administers city affairs, while district matters are attended to by the Antigua Country Board of Health. A Central Board of Health exercises sanitary supervision over roads, public tanks, ponds, wells, wharves and any

public market in any of the towns or villages. Separate Boards are appointed to enforce Rules and Regulations made by the Central Board. Village Councils have been appointed in some of the principal villages. The most important being the All Saints Village Council.

St. Kitts is divided for the purposes of local Boards into nine parishes. A Central Board, assisted by various Boards of Health, deals with particular districts. The provision of improved dwellings for the workers on a hire purchase basis has been completed.

## Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Standard imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided for by law.

## Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

The following are the principal newspapers and periodicals published in this Colony :

### ANTIGUA

*Weekly :* *Leeward Islands Gazette.*  
*Daily :* *Antigua Star ; Worker's Voice ; Antigua Magnet.*

### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

*Fortnightly :* *St. Christopher-Nevis Official Gazette.*  
*Weekly :* *Worker's Weekly ; Democrat.*  
*Daily :* *St. Christopher-Nevis Daily Bulletin ; Union Messenger.*

### MONTSERRAT

*Weekly :* *Montserrat Observer.*

### VIRGIN ISLANDS

*Fortnightly :* *The Torch.*

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COLONIAL OFFICE

# REPORT ON THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEARS 1949 & 1950

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## PART I

### Review of the Years 1949 and 1950

THE Right Honourable the Earl Baldwin of Bewdley left Antigua on 3rd June, 1950, on leave prior to resignation because of ill health.

Mr. K. W. Blackburne, C.M.G., O.B.E., Director of Information Services in the Colonial Office, was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands on 8th August and assumed duty in the Colony on 17th September, 1950.

Considerable progress was achieved during the years 1949 and 1950 in different spheres of activity, though the year 1950, with its disastrous hurricanes, earthquakes and fires, will be a year long remembered in Antigua, Barbuda, Nevis and Anguilla.

The severe drought suffered by Antigua in 1948 ended in the following year but, some twelve months later, that Presidency suffered three disasters in two weeks. On 18th August, 1950, there was a serious fire in the centre of the City of St. John's, of which over 90 per cent of the buildings are of wooden construction. A four-storey hotel was completely destroyed and other commercial buildings, including a large bakery, were severely damaged. The fire was caused by the explosion of a kerosine tank in a refrigerator. Early the next morning the Federal Secretariat and its contents—records, equipment and furniture—were totally destroyed in a second fire. A Commission of Inquiry concluded that this fire, and six other fires which occurred about the same time, were due to electrical causes resulting from faulty electricity and telephone systems.

Two days later, the islands of Antigua and Barbuda were struck by a hurricane, in which the wind velocity was estimated to have reached 100 m.p.h. Fortunately no loss of life occurred but telephone and electricity services were completely disorganised. There was very extensive road damage owing to flood waters and a considerable number of livestock were lost. The damage to property varied greatly according to location. The City of St. John's suffered only slight damage but in the rural areas severe destruction was caused. The total number of houses destroyed in this hurricane was 488, while a further 636 were damaged, many of them being rendered uninhabitable.

Relief measures were promptly instituted but, while they were in progress, an even more disastrous hurricane passing between Antigua and Barbuda struck these two islands on the night of 31st August—1st September. In Antigua, the barometer dropped to 29.02 inches and winds of 165 m.p.h. were recorded. In Barbuda the barometer dropped to 28.28 inches. Telephone and electricity services were again completely disorganised, as was also the water supply for the City of St. John's. Many roads were blocked and damaged by flood

waters. All craft in the harbour, save one launch, were either capsized or driven ashore. Fortunately, loss of life was limited to three sailors who were drowned when their schooner capsized. In this hurricane the City of St. John's suffered worse than the rural areas, though the villages by no means escaped unscathed. Considerable damage was caused to Government buildings, private property, public facilities, shipping, and growing crops.

Leaving out of account large houses, which were either insured by their owners or whose owners could afford to repair them unaided, 1,348 small houses were completely destroyed and 2,343 damaged in both hurricanes in Antigua, rendering some 6,477 people homeless; in Barbuda, 84 houses were completely destroyed and 109 damaged, rendering 320 persons homeless.

The small island of Anguilla was also in the path of the second hurricane and suffered severe damage. A total of 232 houses were completely destroyed and 179 were severely damaged, out of a total of 1,185 houses. There was also considerable damage to shipping, and two schooners and one sloop were lost. Large numbers of small stock, especially sheep and goats, were destroyed, and crop losses were heavy.

It is gratifying to record the reaction and response of Governments and members of the public outside the Colony to these disasters. The relief given was both immediate and generous in measure. His Majesty's Government made an immediate interim grant of £50,000 (\$240,000), whilst British West Indian Governments, headed by Jamaica which donated £5,000, sent gifts of money, clothing, food and medical supplies. Gifts and assistance were also received from neighbouring American and French territories.

By the close of 1950 most of the damaged houses had been repaired and a considerable number of those destroyed had been rebuilt without Government assistance. Plans for a large-scale relief housing programme were under consideration at the end of the year.

The island of Nevis suffered comparatively minor damage in the first hurricane; but on 27th December severe earth tremors were experienced in that island and, to a lesser extent, in St. Kitts. The tremors, which sometimes numbered as many as a hundred a day, continued well into 1951. As a result, great damage was done to property, although no lives were lost. The damage was confined to large stone and concrete buildings; the small timber houses of peasants were fortunately not affected. Damage to Government buildings alone is estimated at £100,000.

Despite these disasters the years 1949 and 1950 were marked by notable achievements in the field of production. The production of sugar cane in Antigua made a good recovery from the droughts of the preceding years and, in 1950, although some 2,300 tons of cane were left unreaped owing to labour disputes, the factory achieved a record production of 30,680 tons of sugar. In St. Kitts-Nevis, the crop in 1949 was the third largest ever harvested and in 1950 a record of 41,205 tons of sugar was produced.

The reports of the Soulbury Commission on the organisation of the sugar industries in Antigua and St. Kitts were published towards the end of 1949.

Under the stimulus of guaranteed prices from the Raw Cotton Commission, the acreage under Sea Island cotton continued to expand in 1949, particularly in Antigua and Nevis, where double the 1948 acreage was planted. Growing conditions in Antigua were excellent and the crop was by far the largest in the island's history, the production of clean lint reaching 873,564 lb. and stains 51,300 lb. Exports of cotton from Antigua, in 1949, were valued at \$737,946 compared with the previous highest figure of \$150,000.

The value of imports into the Colony in 1950 increased by \$2,854,157 or 27 per cent and exports by \$3,125,122 or 35 per cent compared with 1949.

Though industrial relations in St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands were good throughout the years under review, the same cannot be said of Antigua. The year 1950 was characterised by a long series of labour disputes. One dispute which tied up the waterfront and later spread to the sugar industry, paralysing work in both factory and field, lasted about a month and resulted in some 2,300 tons of cane being left unreaped. The other major dispute was between the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and the American-owned Mill Reef Properties Limited and it lasted for nearly three months before a settlement was achieved.

Economic conditions in the Virgin Islands deteriorated for reasons beyond the control of the Government. During the latter half of 1949 a large number of migrant British Virgin Islands workers were expelled from St. Thomas in the American Virgin Islands. The situation created by the unemployment occasioned by the tightening of the United States laws controlling immigration into St. Thomas deteriorated in 1950—first, by the disruption and subsequent suspension of the trade in the export of livestock to St. Thomas, which lasted until after the close of 1950, and, secondly, by the imposition by the United States immigration authorities of an \$8 head tax on all aliens entering the American Virgin Islands. The position was ameliorated in some degree by the revival of exports of livestock to the French West Indies.

The other disruption suffered by the Virgin Islands was the result of the revaluation of sterling, since Government budgeting and accounting is carried out on a sterling (B.W.I. dollar) basis, though the U.S. dollar is the medium of exchange in use in the Presidency. Legislation was enacted early in 1950 with the object of correcting the drop in revenue from taxation consequent upon the revaluation of the pound sterling.

With regard to development, it was decided, in mid-1949, to abandon preparation of a Ten-Year Development Plan for the Colony and to prepare Development Plans instead for the Presidencies separately. Development and Welfare funds were accordingly allocated amongst the Presidencies as follows :—Antigua £499,000, St. Kitts-Nevis

£327,000, Montserrat £168,400 and the Virgin Islands £84,600. The Antigua Development Plan, which was prepared and submitted in 1950, later had to be recast because of the damage caused by the hurricanes and had not been completed by the end of 1950. The St. Kitts-Nevis Plan was completed and submitted early in 1950 and was subject to consideration of a number of points at the close of the year. The Montserrat Plan was submitted at the end of 1949 and, subject to certain reservations, received the general approval of the Secretary of State in 1950. The Virgin Islands Plan was still in course of preparation at the end of 1950.

In 1949, the United States Government decided to close the Coolidge Field Air Force base in Antigua and the last American troops were withdrawn on 14th August, 1949. The Antigua Administration thereupon bought all the buildings and installations, some of which have been retained on the site to enable Coolidge Field to be operated as a civil airport. Consideration was given to making the best economic use of the area as a whole but, after various plans to this end had failed to come to fruition, it was decided that the buildings and installations, other than those required for the operation of the airport, should be sold. This work proceeded in 1950 and the lumber obtained from the base has been of great assistance to building in Antigua generally. The two power stations at the base, with a total generating capacity of 900 kw.—far in excess of the island's actual or potential requirements—have been maintained by the Administration, though at a loss, and, at the end of 1950, plans were being drawn up with the object of using the A.C. current from these plants for the whole island and disposing of the inadequate D.C. plant now supplying St. John's.

There were also considerable constitutional developments, most notably in the Virgin Islands. That Presidency had had a Legislative Council for some 175 years when, in 1902, it was abolished and the Governor was empowered to legislate for the Presidency. That position lasted for nearly half a century until, in 1950, the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands was restored. Elections were held in November of that year and the first session of the new Council was held in December. The Council consists of the Commissioner, as President, two official members, four elected members and two unofficial nominated members.

Constitutional reform in the Leeward Islands was under consideration in the three Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat in 1948 and, in that year, the lives of those Legislative Councils had already been extended for one year. A Committee was set up in 1949 with the Attorney General as chairman and with two elected members selected by the unofficial members of the three Presidential Legislatures, together with one nominated unofficial member from each Legislature appointed by the Governor. The elected members from St. Kitts-Nevis, however, were unwilling to serve as they did not consider that the terms of reference of the Committee were wide enough.

The Committee reported early in 1950 ; it recommended that adult suffrage should be introduced, by the abolition of property and income qualifications, that a simple literacy test be retained, that income and property qualifications of candidates be abolished, and that a committee system be introduced so as to associate unofficial members of the Legislature more closely with the work of Government Departments.

Those proposals were approved but other points of constitutional reform were raised and, since there was insufficient time to consider them before the lives of the Councils terminated, the lives of the Councils were extended for a further year. Subsequently, in December, 1950, it was announced that certain changes would be made in the General Legislative Council and in the three Legislative Councils of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat broadly similar to those recently approved for the Legislatures of the Windward Islands. Such changes would include provision for an elected majority on the Councils, the retention of nominated members, the provision of electoral districts, and provision for the Legislatures to elect certain members to the Executive Councils.

The report of the Standing Closer Association Committee was debated in the Legislatures of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat in 1950. Resolutions accepting the recommendations of the Committee were passed unanimously in the first two Legislatures but the Legislative Council of Montserrat accepted the report with the proviso that the representation of that Presidency in the Senate and the Assembly should be increased from one to two members. The report has not yet been debated in the Virgin Islands Legislative Council.

Two matters connected with the Civil Service are worth recording. Late in 1950, Mr. S. A. Hammond, C.M.G., of the staff of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, conducted an enquiry into the cost-of-living allowance payable to civil servants in the Colony. He reported that the cost of living had risen sharply in recent years and he recommended that the present rates of allowance should be doubled in respect of civil servants resident in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat. In respect of the Virgin Islands, where the cost of living had remained relatively stable, and where civil servants were already receiving an exchange compensation allowance of 37½ per cent to meet the extra cost of living, resulting from the revaluation of the pound sterling, it was recommended that that allowance should be raised to 42.8 per cent, to meet the full increase resulting from revaluation. These recommendations were accepted, the increased cost-of-living allowance in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat being payable from 1st January, 1950, and the increased exchange compensation allowance from 1st October, 1949.

The Federal Labour Department was abolished on 1st January, 1951, as it appeared that its purpose could be better served by separate Labour Commissioners in Antigua and St. Kitts.

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

THE following table sets out the actual population of the Colony in 1946, the year in which the last census was taken, and the estimated population on 31st December, 1949, and 1950 :

	1946	1949	1950
Antigua . . . . .	41,757	44,532	45,611
St. Kitts-Nevis . . . . .	46,243	46,928	48,501
Montserrat . . . . .	14,333	13,508	13,535
Virgin Islands . . . . .	6,000	6,000	7,000
	108,838	111,000	115,000

The estimated population of the British Virgin Islands at the close of 1949 and 1950 are rough estimates, owing to the peculiar mobility of the population between the British and American Virgin Islands. There is at any time a large floating population of British Virgin Islanders in the American Virgin Islands, who spend on the average four weeks at home and four weeks away from home. The extent of this mobility and its effect upon the population figures may be judged by the fact that the number of British Virgin Islanders entering the American Virgin Islands in 1948 and 1949 was 4,996 and 4,967 respectively.

### Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

#### ANTIGUA

During the sugar crop season in 1950, the weekly average number of persons employed on the estates was 2,596, comprising about 1,540 males and 1,056 females. During the out of crop season the numbers were 1,978, 890 and 1,088 respectively.

In January, 1950, a temporary unemployment registration centre was set up in St. John's and, as a result of registrations and of similar information received from Village Councils, it was apparent that unemployment and under-employment constituted a serious problem. A Committee which was appointed to consider the problem of under-employment and unemployment recommended that an island-wide survey should be carried out and this was undertaken in 1950 by the Director of the Labour Relations Institute of the University of Puerto Rico. The following were the main features of his report :

- (a) the volume of unemployment in this Presidency is high, about 18·5 per cent of workers in the labour force being unemployed ;
- (b) many workers are only casually or irregularly employed ;
- (c) 50 per cent of the workers are chronically unemployed throughout the year ;

- (d) about 50 per cent of the unemployed move into and out of employment, resulting in their being unemployed for much less than a full year ; and
- (e) there are strong occupational preferences which make difficult a solution of the problems of unemployment and under-employment.

The following were the wage rates in various occupations in Antigua in 1950 :

*Sugar factory :*

Skilled workers . . .	38-40 cents per hour
Semi-skilled workers . . .	21-28 cents per hour
Unskilled workers . . .	18-26 cents per hour

	<i>In crop</i>	<i>Out of crop</i>
	\$	\$
<i>Sugar estates :</i>		
Cutters, male . . .	2.45 per day	—
Packers, male . . .	1.83 " "	—
" , female . . .	1.32 " "	—
Loaders . . .	2.44 " "	—
Cartmen . . .	2.89 " "	—
Piece workers, male . . .	1.59 " "	1.61 per day
" , female . . .	.92 " "	.94 " "
Time workers, male . . .	1.28 " "	1.23 " "
" , female . . .	.67 " "	.68 " "

*Public Works, Municipal and Electricity Board :*

Foremen carpenters, masons and linesmen	47-52 cents per hour
Carpenters and masons . . .	33-40 " " "
Masons, blacksmiths, lorry and roller drivers, and mechanics . . .	24-33 " " "
Electricians and linesmen . . .	35-48 " " "
Telephone linesmen . . .	16-28 " " "
Unskilled labour, male . . .	16-23 " " "
" , female . . .	10 " " "

*Engineering trades (other than sugar factory) :*

Welders and motor mechanics . . .	63 cents per hour
Blacksmiths, pipefitters, etc. . .	20-36 " " "
Unskilled labour . . .	15-20 " " "

*Miscellaneous industries :*

Printeries, distilleries, aerated water plants, house painters . . .	50 cents per hour
Mechanics, truck drivers, printers and compositors . . .	20-37 " " "
Unskilled labour . . .	19-22 " " "

*Mill Reef Properties :*

	\$
Foremen carpenters, masons, plumbers . . .	6.50 per day
Carpenters, masons . . .	3.25-4.00 " "
Electricians . . .	4.00-4.50 " "

*Mill Reef Properties (continued) :*

	\$	
General labour foremen . . . . .	4.50	per day
Labour foremen . . . . .	3.25	" "
Tinsmiths . . . . .	5.20	" "
Unskilled labour . . . . .	1.65	" "

*Waterfront workers :*

	Cargo	Wage rates	Average monthly earnings
<i>Stevedores</i>	Sugar . . . . .	33 cents per ton	} \$114.69
	General . . . . .	36 cents per hour	
<i>Lightermen</i>	Sugar . . . . .	52 cents per ton	} \$100.24
	Cement . . . . .	76 " " "	
	Coal . . . . .	80 " " "	
	General . . . . .	55-72 " " "	
<i>Porters</i>	Sugar . . . . .	20-24 " " "	} \$107.80
	General . . . . .	51 " " "	

*Cost of living Index  
(1939=100)*

September, 1949 . . . . .	228.8
December, 1949 . . . . .	239.6
March, 1950 . . . . .	240.4
June, 1950 . . . . .	247.0
September, 1950 . . . . .	252.7
December, 1950 . . . . .	255.4

*Industrial relations*

In addition to a number of minor disputes, grievances and complaints 21 labour disputes were reported and were settled by conciliation during 1949. In 1950, 25 labour disputes of importance were recorded ; 22 were settled by conciliation, one was settled after reference to a Board of Inquiry, one finally by arrangement between the employer and the Antigua Trades and Labour Union, the only Union in the Presidency, and one dispute was settled by effluxion of time.

The three most serious disputes involved the waterfront, the sugar industry and the Mill Reef Properties Limited. There was a strike of waterfront workers from 4th to 11th April, 1950 and, though a temporary settlement was effected, the strike broke out again and lasted until 4th May. During the second period it spread to the sugar industry, paralysing work in both field and factory, the latter having to cease operations for two weeks. The settlement of this dispute resulted in the establishment of a Port Labour Committee, the principal duty of which is to select stevedores to work on each vessel and ensure, by rotation fair distribution of work, and thus of earnings also. The Committee, which consists of a chairman nominated by Government and one representative each of the employers and the union, operated successfully during the remainder of 1950.

The strike on Mill Reef Properties lasted from 2nd May until 1st August, 1950, when it was settled by agreed procedure between the company and the union.



*Industrial accidents*

The number of accidents in factories and other industrial establishments which were reported during 1949 and 1950 numbered 16 and 32 respectively. These included two fatal accidents in 1950. Claims for compensation against Government Departments totalled 38 and 36 in 1949 and 1950, in respect of which amounts of \$453·90 and \$868·62 were paid. Claims in industry numbered 134 and 239 in 1949 and 1950, in respect of which sums of \$1,644·16 and \$6,840·11 were paid.

*Legislation*

Federal legislation on this subject is described in Chapter 8. The Presidential Council passed the Labour Ordinance No. 3 of 1950, providing for the appointment of a Presidential Labour Commissioner, the Department of Labour Act, 1944, providing for a Federal Labour Officer, having been repealed.

## ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

The numbers employed on estates and in the Basseterre sugar factory, and their gross earnings, in 1950 were as follows :

	<i>Estates</i>		<i>Gross earnings</i> \$
	<i>Numbers employed</i> <i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
July . . . . .	3,587	3,115	97,626
August . . . . .	2,987	3,056	78,457
September . . . . .	3,195	2,835	81,179
<i>Sugar factory</i>			
October . . . . .	664	6	28,887
November . . . . .	664	6	37,439
December . . . . .	664	6	28,127

The following were the approximate earnings of various categories of workers in 1950, other than those employed at the sugar factory, where earnings are largely dependent upon skills and production :

Estate male labourers . . . . .	91 cents—\$1·02 per day
cutters . . . . .	\$13·12 per week
handlers . . . . .	\$8·13 per week
packers . . . . .	\$12·50 per week
tractor drivers . . . . .	\$18·60 per week
truck drivers . . . . .	\$17·36 per week
Estate female labourers . . . . .	56 cents—68 cents per day
weeding cotton . . . . .	88 cents—\$1 per acre
picking cotton . . . . .	2½ cents per lb.
cleaning cotton . . . . .	81 cents per 100 lb.
heaping cotton . . . . .	27 cents per acre
burning cotton . . . . .	18 cents per acre
cleaning fields . . . . .	\$2·25 per acre
Ginnery male labourers . . . . .	80 cents per day
Ginnery female labourers . . . . .	56 cents per day
Artisans in other occupations . . . . .	average \$2·64 per d

Road maintenance, male labourers	\$1·23 per day
Road maintenance, female labourers	72 cents per day
Commercial store clerks, male	\$8—\$15 per week
Commercial store clerks, female	\$6—\$8 per week
Domestic servants, female	\$2·16—\$3 per week

*Cost of living Index*

(1939 — 100)

March, 1950	. . .	221·96
June, 1950	. . .	220·08
September, 1950	. . .	221·19
December, 1950	. . .	225·90

*Industrial relations*

There were no major disputes in the years 1949 and 1950, during which period the relations between the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union and the St. Christopher Sugar Producers' Association noticeably improved.

The long-standing dispute over the system of payment for work done on the waterfront was still outstanding at the close of 1950.

*Industrial accidents*

In 1950, there were 30 accidents at the sugar factory in St. Kitts, in respect of which total compensation amounting to \$566·16 was paid. There were 46 claims for compensation from Government Departments in respect of which \$662·08 was paid.

*Legislation*

Federal legislation on this subject is described in Chapter 8. The Presidential Council passed the Labour Ordinance No. 1 of 1950, providing for the appointment of a Presidential Labour Commissioner, the Department of Labour Act, 1944, providing for a Federal Labour Officer, having been repealed.

## MONTserrat

By far the larger part of the gainfully employed population is engaged in agriculture. Estate labour is paid for by the task or by the day or, in the case of farming or one or two other occupations, by the acre. Cotton picking is paid for by the pound. Payment by the task is much more general than payment by day. Rates of pay vary somewhat according to locality, being generally higher near the capital, Plymouth.

The wages of agricultural labourers were twice increased during the years under review. A male agricultural labourer employed on estates near Plymouth who was receiving 56 cents a day in December, 1948, had his wages increased to 64 cents a day early in 1949 and to 84 cents a day towards the end of 1950.

The wages of labourers employed by the Government were increased on 1st April, 1950. Skilled labour received an increase of 12 cents a day on existing rates, whilst male unskilled labour received an increase of 6 cents, rising from 66 cents to 72 cents, and female un-

OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION 13  
 skilled labour received an increase of 4 cents, rising from 44 cents to 48 cents a day.

The following were the wage rates being paid in December, 1950 :

Estate male labourers	. 66 cents to 80 cents per day or per task
Estate female labourers	. 44 cents—52 cents per day 48 cents—52 cents per task \$1·62—\$3·60 per acre for weeding land to be planted in cotton
Ginnery, male labourers	. about 77 cents per day
Ginnery, female labourers	. about 51 cents per day
Artisans, various rates, averaging about	\$2·20 per day
Road maintenance, male labourers	. 72 cents per day
Road maintenance, female labourers	. 48 cents per day
Commercial store clerks, male	. \$6—\$10 per week
Commercial store clerks, female	. \$5—\$9 per week
Domestic servants, female	\$2·40—\$4·50 per week

*Cost of living Index*  
 (1939 — 100)

March, 1949	. . . 217
June, 1949	. . . 220
September, 1949	. . . 222
December, 1949	. . . 230
March, 1950	. . . 237
June, 1950	. . . 239
September, 1950	. . . 239
December, 1950	. . . 240

*Industrial relations*

Industrial relations were on the whole good. There were no disputes in 1949 and there was only one dispute of two weeks' duration in March, 1950, when labourers working on the estates of the Montserrat Company Limited went on strike.

*Industrial accidents*

In 1949, there were no claims for workmen's compensation. In 1950 there were two claims, one being for compensation from a Government Department in respect of which the sum of \$151·20 was paid.

*Trade Union*

There was only one trade union on the register during the period under review. Its membership in 1949 was 406 and in 1950, 434.

*Legislation*

Federal legislation is described in Chapter 8. The Montserrat Legislative Council passed the Labour Ordinance, No. 5 of 1950, which provides for the appointment of a Labour Commissioner and defines his powers and duties. The Department of Labour Act, 1944, providing for a Federal Labour Officer, was repeated.

LEEWARD ISLANDS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

There is little paid labour in the British Virgin Islands themselves, though a considerable number of the population finds employment in the adjoining American Virgin Islands to the extent that the United States immigration laws permit. The British Virgin Islanders are mainly peasant proprietors engaged in raising livestock and garden produce, or fishermen. Government is the chief employer of labour in the Presidency. There are no trade unions.

Wages range from U.S. \$1·20 to \$1·50 (B.W.I. \$2·06 to \$2·57) per eight-hour day in the case of unskilled workers and from U.S. \$2 to \$3·50 (B.W.I. \$3·43 to \$6) per eight-hour day for artisans. In terms of American currency, in which all monetary transactions are effected, the level of wages was much the same in 1949 and 1950 as it was in 1948. The effect of the revaluation of sterling was, however, to increase the B.W.I. dollar value of the wage scale and consequently the Administration budget on public works and utilities.

Domestic servants earn from U.S. \$10 to \$18 (B.W.I. \$17·14 to \$30·85) per month, with food—wages which are higher than in most neighbouring British territories.

## Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

LEEWARD ISLANDS

	1949	1950 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
<i>Federal Revenue :</i>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Contributions from Presidencies . . . . .	496,145	544,778
Contributions from Dominica . . . . .	3,460	12,000
Post Office . . . . .	167,693	50,000
Printing Office . . . . .	10,895	10,000
Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	103,450	336,158
Other . . . . .	8,178	6,899
	<hr/> 789,821	<hr/> 959,835
<i>Federal Expenditure :</i>		
Pensions . . . . .	33,865	50,453
Governor . . . . .	24,589	28,329
Secretariat . . . . .	23,767	22,438
Audit . . . . .	20,984	26,297
Legal . . . . .	21,670	9,594
Police . . . . .	364,068	351,344
Printing . . . . .	19,513	20,962
Agriculture . . . . .	12,479	9,565
Education . . . . .	10,128	17,772
Medical . . . . .	8,197	10,509
Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	162,983	336,158
Other . . . . .	87,578	76,414
Total . . . . .	<hr/> \$789,821	<hr/> \$959,835

## ANTIGUA

	1949	1950 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
<i>Revenue :</i>		
	\$	\$
Customs . . . . .	666,528	750,000
Port and Harbour . . . . .	22,128	29,000
Internal Revenue . . . . .	347,864	400,000
Fees of Court, Office, etc. . . . .	141,201	170,000
Post Office, Telephones, etc. . . . .	112,940	90,000
Housing and Land Settlement Schemes . . . . .	4,200	1,500
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	150,021	150,000
Other . . . . .	507,870	915,500
Grant-in-aid . . . . .	—	216,000
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,952,752</b>	<b>\$2,722,000</b>
<i>Expenditure :</i>		
Administration . . . . .	30,377	35,000
Public Debt . . . . .	42,458	39,358
Pensions . . . . .	44,246	54,250
Federal Services . . . . .	228,303	254,065
Agriculture . . . . .	111,019	220,000
Water Services . . . . .	45,175	78,000
Medical Services . . . . .	82,396	101,000
Hospital, etc. . . . .	212,235	230,000
Education . . . . .	160,505	175,000
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	86,066	93,000
Public Works . . . . .	206,923	353,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	164,163	150,000
Other . . . . .	729,663	1,162,860
	<b>\$2,143,529</b>	<b>\$2,945,533</b>
<i>Public Debt :</i>		
Local Loans . . . . .	200,663	200,663
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	225,722	304,000
	<b>\$426,385</b>	<b>\$504,663</b>
<i>Assets and Liabilities at 31st December :</i>		
Excess of Liabilities . . . . .	39,465	262,998
<i>Taxation Yields :</i>		<i>Estimate</i>
Import Duties . . . . .	597,267	606,580
Export Duties . . . . .	69,261	99,150
Income Tax . . . . .	91,538	192,000
Excise . . . . .	103,375	115,600

	1949	1950 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
<i>Revenue :</i>		
	\$	\$
Customs . . . . .	783,453	935,000
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues . . . . .	72,718	95,800
Internal Revenue . . . . .	479,123	554,120
Fees of Office, etc. . . . .	57,210	56,550
Post Office, etc. . . . .	213,452	202,410
Peasant Development . . . . .	259,681	398,000
Imperial Grants . . . . .	34,021	141,579
Other . . . . .	71,281	56,880
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,970,939</b>	<b>\$2,440,339</b>
<i>Expenditure :</i>		
Administration . . . . .	37,212	51,200
Public Debt . . . . .	13,468	13,725
Pensions . . . . .	53,839	54,260
Federal Services . . . . .	209,984	234,060
Water Services . . . . .	19,544	27,900
Medical Services . . . . .	127,607	165,550
Hospital and Charitable Institutions . . . . .	164,229	185,315
Education . . . . .	205,288	246,480
Post Office, Telephones, etc. . . . .	70,548	73,500
Public Works . . . . .	293,568	630,790
Peasant Development . . . . .	261,684	398,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	60,107	113,500
Other . . . . .	448,899	520,092
	<b>\$1,965,977</b>	<b>\$2,714,372</b>
<i>Public Debt at 31st December :</i>		
Local Loans . . . . .	96,000	96,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	32,921	26,558
	<b>\$128,908</b>	<b>\$122,558</b>
<i>Excess of Assets over Liabilities at 31st December . . . . .</i>	<b>\$898,170</b>	<b>\$624,137</b>
<i>Taxation Yields :</i>		
Import Duties . . . . .	625,458	759,000
Export Duties . . . . .	157,995	176,000
Income Tax . . . . .	326,421	400,000
Excise . . . . .	51,482	45,000

## MONTSERRAT

	1949	1950 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
<i>Revenue :</i>		
	\$	\$
Customs . . . . .	131,570	142,000
Internal Revenue, Excise, Licences . . . . .	49,564	57,680
Fees of Court or Office, etc. . . . .	81,309	120,774
Posts, Telegraphs, etc. . . . .	108,913	56,140
Imperial Grant-in-aid . . . . .	156,000	—
Development and Welfare Grants . . . . .	29,345	42,927
Other . . . . .	13,897	12,780
	<hr/> \$570,598	<hr/> \$432,301

*Expenditure :*

Public Debt . . . . .	3,999	2,818
Pensions . . . . .	13,155	12,362
Federal Services . . . . .	48,854	54,194
Administration . . . . .	15,564	17,514
Water . . . . .	10,203	4,660
Medical . . . . .	17,120	29,453
Hospital . . . . .	47,377	45,167
Education . . . . .	76,666	84,168
Post Office, etc. . . . .	16,509	14,610
Public Works . . . . .	48,323	47,911
Otway Settlement . . . . .	51,824	68,344
Other . . . . .	117,486	121,018
	<hr/> \$489,494	<hr/> \$545,146

*Public Debt :*

Local Loans . . . . .	—	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans . . . . .	96,632	94,211

*Assets and Liabilities at 31st December :*

Excess of Assets . . . . .	52,205	—
Excess of Liabilities . . . . .	—	60,640

*Taxation Yields :*

		<i>Estimate</i>
Import Duties . . . . .	120,680	128,000
Export Duties . . . . .	10,890	18,000
Income Tax . . . . .	12,220	24,000
Excise . . . . .	18,747	15,000

LEEWARD ISLANDS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

	1949	1950 <i>Revised Estimate</i>
<i>Revenue :</i>		
	\$	\$
Customs . . . . .	26,704	32,710
Taxes . . . . .	9,056	16,088
Fees of Court . . . . .	4,406	10,671
Post Office . . . . .	187,856	13,481
Reserve Funds . . . . .	528	38,073
Imperial Grants . . . . .	3,082	6,121
Other . . . . .	25,195	4,878
	<hr/> \$256,827	<hr/> \$122,022
<i>Expenditure :</i>		
Administration . . . . .	44,278	42,423
Public Debt . . . . .	—	—
Pensions . . . . .	3,266	3,646
Federal Services . . . . .	9,004	19,860
Agriculture . . . . .	12,579	21,066
Medical Services . . . . .	18,224	30,981
Education . . . . .	43,172	67,214
Post Office . . . . .	4,187	6,597
Public Works . . . . .	56,098	56,104
Other . . . . .	59,943	23,651
	<hr/> \$250,751	<hr/> \$271,542
<i>Public Debt : Nil</i>		
<i>Assets and Liabilities at 31st December :</i>		
Excess of Assets . . . . .	53,204	—
Excess of Liabilities . . . . .	—	96,316
<i>Taxation Yields :</i>		
Import Duties . . . . .	23,419	29,325
Export Duties . . . . .	3,285	3,385
Income Tax . . . . .	—	5,000
Excise . . . . .	1,505	1,850



## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

United Kingdom coin and British West Indian notes are legal tender throughout the Colony. The notes used are predominantly those of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, though those of the Governments of Barbados and British Guiana, and of Barclay's Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada are also in circulation. In the British Virgin Islands the currency in everyday use is, however, American ; United Kingdom coin and British West Indian notes have virtually disappeared from circulation there. The dollar system of accounting is used by Government, the banks, and commercial houses.

The rate of exchange is \$4·80 B.W.I. to £1 sterling.

The Currency Act, No. 4 of 1950, was enacted by the General Legislative Council on 20th July. This Act is designed to implement an Agreement between the British Colonies in the Eastern Caribbean to provide for a uniform currency. A Board of Commissioners of Currency was constituted by the appointment by the Secretary of State of five commissioners—one each from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Windward Islands. The first meeting of the Board was held in December, 1950.

Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial & Overseas) has branches in Antigua and St. Kitts, while the Royal Bank of Canada has branches in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat. There is no commercial bank in the Virgin Islands.

There are Government Savings Banks in all four Presidencies and the amounts on deposit and the number of depositors continued to increase steadily as shown in the figures for 31st December, 1949 and 1950 :

	1949	<i>No. of</i>	1950	<i>No. of</i>
	\$	<i>depositors</i>	\$	<i>depositors</i>
Antigua . . .	537,465	10,240	573,224	11,400
St. Kitts-Nevis . . .	518,948	3,451	636,000	3,499
Montserrat . . .	206,573	1,471	247,296	1,552
Virgin Islands . . .	65,102	325	51,562	385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,328,088	15,487	\$1,508,082	16,836
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## Chapter 5: Commerce

The following tables show the value and quantities of goods imported into, and exported from, the Colony :

## TOTAL IMPORTS

	1949.	1950
Antigua	•	•
St. Kitts-Nevis	• \$4,715,633	• \$6,406,931
Montserrat	• \$4,801,626	• \$5,933,270
Virgin Islands	• \$703,142	• \$724,704
	• \$313,129	• \$322,782

## PRINCIPAL ITEMS IMPORTED IN 1950

	Antigua		St. Kitts-Nevis		Montserrat		Virgin Islands	
	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity
Butter and butter substitutes . . .	113,588	142,445 lb.	96,730	190,167 lb.	8,009	11,956 lb.	5,811	11,469 lb.
Fish (all kinds) . . .	152,762	663,119 lb.	211,570	942,305 lb.	24,106	190,858 lb.	2,856	4,996 lb.
Grain (all kinds) . . .	298,605	5,488,563 lb.	872,238	10,609,267 lb.	105,934	1,922,232 lb.	73,857	—
Meat (all kinds) . . .	171,548	386,971 lb.	192,640	469,209 lb.	13,124	45,492 lb.	5,634	9,005 lb.
Timber, unmanufactured . . .	340,762	1,444,801 ft.	315,259	1,378,211 ft.	15,883	{ 56,297 ft. 6,250 bundles	33,685	113,197 bd.ft.
Apparel . . .	290,770	—	49,767	—	5,869	—	4,513	—
Boots and shoes . . .	101,398	62,583 pairs	114,348	66,168 pairs	23,525	10,896 pairs	5,263	1764 pairs
Cotton piece-goods . . .	260,164	—	287,215	—	58,531	—	12,883	—
Oils (non-edible) . . .	149,440	507,691 gall.	206,038	750,925 gall	23,794	96,996 gall	8,328	72,218 gall
Sugar . . .	—	—	—	—	90,413	1,272,784 lb.	—	—

## TOTAL EXPORTS

	1949	1950
Antigua	.	\$2,884,402
St. Kitts-Nevis	.	\$5,621,376
Montserrat	.	\$5,827,481
Virgin Islands	.	\$440,918
	.	\$144,579

## PRINCIPAL ITEMS EXPORTED IN 1950

	Antigua		St. Kitts-Nevis		Montserrat		Virgin Islands	
	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity	Value \$	Quantity
Sugar	4,590,505	31,817 tons	5,376,491	38,647 tons	—	—	—	—
Molasses	3,000	12,000 gall	113,044	1,007,647 gall.	—	—	—	—
Cotton	645,897	765,548 lb.	213,576	269,605 lb.	313,132	362,867 lb.	—	—
Vegetables (all kinds)	—	—	1,255	—	1,258	—	10,368	—
Citrus products	—	—	—	—	18,274	*	—	—
Livestock	—	—	—	—	—	—	86,476	3,703 (number)
Fish (fresh)	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,025	48,700 lb.
Charcoal	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,683	6,722 barrels
Fruits (fresh)	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,061	—

\* Quantities of citrus exports are given on p.26

## Chapter 6: Production

### AGRICULTURE

#### *Sugar*

Sugar cane is cultivated both on a large scale on estates and by peasants. In 1949, this crop in Antigua made a good recovery from the protracted droughts of the previous three years. But for labour difficulties, which resulted in some 4,000 tons of cane being left unharvested, production would have reached average. The area reaped was 8,494 acres, producing 18,338 tons of sugar, of which 16,791 tons were exported. In St. Kitts the crop was the third largest ever harvested ; in Nevis, 9,000 tons of cane were produced but about one-fifth was not reaped owing to shortage of boats to transport the cane to the Basseterre factory for grinding. The area reaped in St. Kitts-Nevis was 10,534 acres, producing 35,667 tons of sugar, of which 33,781 tons were exported. In Montserrat about 150 acres of cane were grown for manufacture into rum, and some 90 acres were grown in the Virgin Islands for the same purpose.

In 1949 were published the reports of the Commissions which, under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury, investigated the sugar industries in Antigua and St. Kitts. Their recommendations covered several phases of the industry.

In 1950, the sugar crop in Antigua of 30,680 tons of grey crystals (made at the Antigua Sugar Factory) and 422 tons of muscovado (made at the small Montpelier factory) was the largest for many years and a record production for the first-named factory. The acreage reaped rose from 8,494 in 1949 to 11,800 in 1950. Exports amounted to 31,817 tons. In St. Kitts-Nevis the acreage reaped rose from 10,534 in 1949 to 11,330 in 1950, and the crop exceeded the previous record by almost 4,000 tons ; total production was 41,205 tons, of which about 1,420 tons were made from cane grown in Nevis. It is noteworthy that the total production of cane in Nevis was approximately 13,120 tons, or more than double the average for the past decade. Approximately the same acreages of cane were grown in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands in 1950 for manufacture into rum, the cane in Montserrat being grown mostly at altitudes too high for cotton planting.

#### *Cotton*

In 1949, the acreage under Sea Island cotton continued to expand, particularly in Antigua and Nevis, where about twice as much land was planted in cotton as in 1948. The crop in Antigua was by far the largest in the island's history. Some 3,550 acres were planted, producing 873,564 lb. of clean lint and 51,300 lb. of stains. The value of cotton exported was \$737,946, against the previous highest figure of \$150,000 and a decennial average of \$75,000, a most important contribution to the island's economy. In St. Kitts yields were

satisfactory but the proportion of stains was high. Some 1,169 acres were planted, producing 183,839 lb. of clean lint and 47,250 lb. of stains. In Nevis, 3,106 acres were under cotton but yields were low and staining heavy; 181,010 lb. of clean lint and 134,381 lb. of stains were produced. The acreage planted in Montserrat was 10 per cent larger than in 1948, being 3,825 acres; 587,917 lb. clean lint and 46,049 lb. of stains were produced. Negligible quantities were produced in Anguilla and the Virgin Islands.

In 1950 the acreage under cotton in Antigua increased by 10 per cent but declined by 50 per cent in Nevis—a reaction from the bad 1949 season—by 30 per cent in St. Kitts, and by a small percentage in Montserrat. Very satisfactory yields were obtained in Antigua, production being 776,153 lb. of clean lint and 64,125 lb. of stains; in St. Kitts the figures were 106,786 lb. and 32,328 lb.; in Nevis, 126,576 lb. and 28,917 lb.; in Anguilla only 3,884 lb. and 226 lb.; and in Montserrat, 358,580 lb. and 41,611 lb.

### *Food crops*

No accurate statistics of acreages under food crops, and their production, are available. Principal crops include corn, sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, peas, beans, tomatoes, peanuts and carrots. Locally grown root crops and vegetables were in fairly plentiful supply for most of 1949. Inadequate shipping and storage facilities hampered the export trade in tomatoes, but 96,887 lb. were shipped from Montserrat, and 10,500 lb. from Antigua. About two-thirds of all exports were to Canada, the remainder being to West Indian Islands. Some 86 tons of fruits and other vegetables were also exported from Montserrat, whilst the Virgin Islands exported fruit and vegetables to the value of \$23,573.

In 1950 the supply of root crops and vegetables for local consumption was about normal. There was, however, a 100 per cent increase in the export of tomatoes from Montserrat, shipments totalling 193,774 lb. The price to the grower fell, however, from 6 cents in 1949 to 3½ cents per lb. in 1950. Montserrat also exported some 80 tons of fruit and vegetables, as did the Virgin Islands, whose exports were valued at \$22,429.

### *Animal Husbandry*

In all the larger islands supplies of fresh meat, poultry and dairy produce were generally in short supply in 1949. Animal health was good throughout the year, with the exception of an outbreak of swine fever in Tortola (Virgin Islands) which killed some 90 pigs. It was brought under control by quarantine and vaccination. Grazing conditions were good throughout the year and in both Antigua and the Virgin Islands a small number of farmers made progress in the conversion of rough grazing into good pasture, which is an encouraging sign. The two principal livestock exporting islands are the Virgins and Anguilla, where stock-raising is the most important industry—with cattle in the former, and small stock in the latter. The principal

market for livestock from the Virgin Islands is St. Thomas and, in 1949, 936 cattle, 456 sheep, 2,152 goats, and 843 swine were exported there, valued at \$111,451.

The health of livestock in the Colony was good in 1950, there being no serious outbreak of disease. Grazing conditions were generally good and further progress was made in pasture improvement in Antigua, Nevis and the Virgin Islands. The supply of stock for slaughter was still inadequate in all Presidencies except the Virgin Islands. The livestock trade between the British Virgin Islands and St. Thomas was disrupted considerably in 1950, when as a result of a dispute between the Government of St. Thomas and the St. Thomas Butchers' Association, shipments had to be suspended between June and November. Exports to St. Thomas in 1950 comprised 483 cattle, 267 sheep, 1,143 goats and 357 swine, valued at \$68,602. In addition, 183 cattle, valued at \$15,374 were shipped to the French West Indies. Anguilla exported 41 cattle, 701 sheep and 444 goats, principally to St. Martin.

#### FORESTRY

All efforts are directed towards the conservation of the very small remaining acreages of forests, with the principal object of soil and water conservation. The small amounts of timber produced are used for boat building, house building, etc.

#### FISHERIES

No statistics are available for the production of fish in the Colony since there are no organised fish markets and fishing is undertaken by individual fishermen.

In 1949 a small consignment of *tilapia melanopleura* was obtained from a London zoo and the fingerlings were successfully established in a pond on a commercial farm in Antigua. These multiplied exceedingly in 1950 and many ponds in various parts of the island were stocked with these fish. Though they have not so far attained any great size, seldom exceeding 6 ozs. in weight, they are palatable and may, in due course, make an appreciable contribution to the local protein supply.

#### MINING

In the past barytes has been mined in Antigua for export to Trinidad but there was no development in this respect during the years under review.

#### INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

##### *Sugar and rum*

There are two sugar factories in Antigua, the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd., and the Montpelier factory, which is operated by the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd. There is one factory in St. Kitts, the Basseterre Sugar Factory Company.

The price paid for canes in Antigua by the Antigua Sugar Factory was \$8·344 per ton in 1949 and \$9·982 per ton in 1950. In St. Kitts the factory paid \$8·448 per ton in 1949 and \$9·897 per ton in 1950.

Rum is produced in Antigua by the Antigua Rum Distillery Ltd., by two private distilleries in Montserrat and by a number of individuals in Tortola (Virgin Islands). In 1950, 81,480 gallons of rum were produced in Antigua and 19,000 gallons in Montserrat.

*Cotton*

All the seed cotton is ginned and baled locally. All the clean lint was purchased by, and exported to, the Raw Cotton Commission. There are several ginneries operated by individual owners in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat and one ginnership operated by Government in both Nevis and Montserrat. There are two factories manufacturing cotton seed oil and cotton seed cake and meal, which is all consumed within the Colony. The following quantities of clean lint and stains were produced in 1949 and 1950 :

	1949		
	<i>Clean Lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Total</i>
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Antigua . . . . .	873,564	51,300	924,864
St. Kitts-Nevis- Anguilla . . . . .	368,988	182,356	551,344
Montserrat . . . . .	587,917	46,049	633,966
	<u>1,830,469</u>	<u>279,705</u>	<u>2,110,174</u>
	1950		
	<i>Clean Lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Total</i>
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Antigua . . . . .	776,153	64,125	840,278
St. Kitts-Nevis- Anguilla . . . . .	237,246	61,471	298,717
Montserrat . . . . .	358,580	41,611	400,191
	<u>1,371,979</u>	<u>167,207</u>	<u>1,539,186</u>

The Raw Cotton Commission paid the following f.o.b. prices for clean lint in 1950 :

	<i>Grade (price per lb.)</i>						
	1	2X	2	3X	3	4X	4 and below
	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>
Antigua and Nevis . . . . .	84	83	82	81	80	79	78
St. Kitts . . . . .	92	91	90	89	88	87	86
Montserrat . . . . .	93	92	91	90	89	88	87

*Citrus Fruits*

These are produced almost entirely in the Presidency of Montserrat and all the products, such as lime juice, distilled lime oil, and ecuelled lime oil, are exported. The following table gives the exports for 1949 and 1950 :

	1949	1950
Fresh limes (lb.) . .	4,435	1,700
Raw lime juice (gall.) .	40,078	25,560
Distilled lime oil (lb.) .	234	198
Ecuelled lime oil (lb.) .	418	432

## FACTORS AFFECTING PRODUCTION

Weather during the 1948 and 1949 seasons was in general favourable throughout the Colony. The rainfall was higher than usual and, for the most part, well distributed. In so far as sugar was concerned, labour difficulties in Antigua resulted in some 4,000 tons of cane being left unharvested. With regard to cotton, growing conditions were excellent and the acreage under cotton was expanded under the stimulus of guaranteed prices from the Raw Cotton Commission. The proportion of stains in St. Kitts was high owing to the pink boll worm and this pest, together with excessive rain in December, 1948, also caused heavy damage to the Nevis crop in 1949 ; in that island the yield was low and staining very heavy. Special measures were taken to tighten up control of pink boll worm. With regard to lime production in Montserrat, "dieback" proved troublesome during the year but the principal producers paid much attention to the replanting and regenerating of affected fields. The inter-planting of sugar cane between lime trees showed promise of control of "dieback".

In 1950, in most areas, rainfall was above the average and fairly well distributed. The hurricanes experienced in August and September, 1950, caused heavy losses to crops, stock and buildings in Antigua, Barbuda and Anguilla. Minor damage was suffered in the other islands. Otherwise weather conditions were, in general, favourable. In so far as sugar cane was concerned, labour disputes in Antigua resulted in some 2,300 tons of cane being left unready. Very satisfactory yields of cotton were obtained in Antigua, but in all other islands yields were below average. There was a marked improvement in the position regarding pink boll worm in Nevis, but some deterioration in St. Kitts. Low rainfall during the planting and growing season for cotton resulted in a very light crop in Montserrat.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

## EDUCATION

*General*

The objective of primary education is to provide for all children between the ages of 6 and 12 years—the proposed compulsory school ages—a thorough curriculum designed to make them literate and to inculcate in them a sense of duty, responsibility and discipline and to train them in good habits.



The objective of secondary education is to provide schools of two types—the senior school which will provide a sound general education up to the age of 15 or 16 years, with a proper balance of academic and practical work, and the grammar school type for academic education up to the standard of the Higher School Certificate examination. A system of technical education, now under consideration, will probably be provided in conjunction with the grammar schools in order to effect maximum economies in staffing and equipment. All education at this stage is intended to be voluntary.

In order to implement these proposals, policy is being specifically directed towards the provision of :

- (a) school places sufficient to give schooling to all children of compulsory school age ;
- (b) the selection and training of a greater number of teachers ;
- (c) teachers and schools, to the extent to which resources permit, for children between 12 and 16 years ;
- (d) opportunities for vocational and professional training, having regard to the available resources ; and
- (e) facilities for adult education.

Each Presidency has a Board of Education, but the Inspector of Schools in Antigua, the Education Officer in St. Kitts-Nevis, the School Supervisor in Montserrat and the Supervisor of Education in the Virgin Islands direct educational affairs and manage the schools in their respective Presidencies.

Teachers now enter the Education Departments through two channels—pupil teachership in primary schools, and a secondary school course. The Leeward Islands' teachers' Second Class Certificate is the minimum standard of attainment for certification.

Opportunities for higher education now exist in the University College of the West Indies, situated in Jamaica. The College employed an Extra Mural Tutor resident in Antigua during the period under review.

### *Antigua*

There are 25 Government schools, one grant-aided school and four recognised private schools for primary education in the Presidency. Secondary school education is given in four grant-aided schools and one private school. All the primary schools, with two exceptions, are co-educational. The new school at Green Bay, built from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, was completed in 1949.

The work of the Department suffered a severe setback in 1950 as a result of the two hurricanes which struck Antigua and Barbuda. The schools at Cobb's Cross, All Saints, Green Bay, St. John's Boys' School, the Point School and others were badly damaged and more than twelve had to be used as shelters for hurricane refugees for periods varying from two to five months. At the end of 1950 two schools were still occupied by the refugees.

During 1950, primary school accommodation was provided for 8,656 children, an increase of over 600 places since 1948, and the average attendance during the year was 5,872, approximately 68 per cent of the places provided. Attendances were, of course, adversely affected by the hurricanes and the subsequent occupation of the schools by refugees.

All the primary schools were inspected in 1950 and a marked improvement in the work of most of the schools was noted, as the following results of the annual examination of Standard VII pupils shows :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Nos. examined</i>	<i>Passes</i>
1948 . .	329	38
1949 . .	325	63
1950 . .	235	145

The number of teachers employed in the primary schools in 1950 was as follows :

Supervising teachers . . .	2
Certificated teachers, Grade I . .	23
Certificated teachers, Grade II . .	69
Uncertificated teachers . . .	71
Pupil teachers . . . . .	109

This represents an increase of 33 teachers compared with 1948.

Fifteen certificated teachers, Grade I, and 10 Grade II were in charge of schools in 1950. Of the teachers, one male and four females had received special training in handicrafts and three female teachers had received special training in domestic science.

Expenditure on primary education in 1950 amounted to \$160,143 from local revenue and \$7,701 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, or an increase of nearly \$20,000 over the total expenditure in 1949. The amount expended from local revenue represented a sum of \$25.98 per child in average attendance or \$19.14 per head of the total school population.

In 1950, 908 pupils attended the five secondary schools, four of which receive a grant-in-aid from the Administration. The Administration awarded three scholarships to the Antigua Grammar School and five scholarships to the Antigua Girls' High School in 1950, thus bringing the number of Administration scholarships at these schools to 35 and 25 respectively.

Total expenditure by the Administration on secondary education in 1950, including scholarships, grants-in-aid and *ex gratia* awards, amounted to \$17,617.

Two student teachers, one male and one female, completed the two-year training course at the Government Training College in Trinidad in 1950, whilst two other male teachers completed the first year of the course. Three of the eight female students at the Moravian Mission's Spring Gardens Training College graduated in 1950. Fifteen intending teachers—nine boys and six girls—received special training

at the Antigua Grammar School and the Antigua Girls' High School. Five, who completed their training in 1950, became uncertificated teachers.

Though handicapped for a time by the hurricanes, the Extra Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies and the General Improvement Organisation continued to conduct classes in adult education. The Extra Mural Tutor held classes in psychology, economics, Spanish, the principles of education, the English language, and choral music, in conjunction with the groups of the General Improvement Organisation. The latter conducted classes in the English language, English literature, elementary arithmetic, physiology and hygiene.

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

There are 32 Government primary schools—17 in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis and five in Anguilla. One grant-aided primary school is managed by the Roman Catholic Church. These schools provide free primary education for children between the ages of five and 16 years. There is legal provision for compelling the attendance at school of children between the ages of 5 and 13 years but this was not enforced during the period under review, as sufficient school places are not yet available for all the children. At the end of 1950, 10,440 children were enrolled in the primary schools and the average attendance was 7,593. Six of the schools are housed in Government buildings but the remainder are in buildings owned by various religious denominations and rented to the Administration. During the period under review, a new primary school with a teacher's house at West End, Anguilla, and a new senior school in Charlestown, Nevis, were erected with grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. A similar grant for building a senior school at the Valley, Anguilla, was approved towards the end of 1950.

There is a Boys' Grammar School and a Girls' High School in St. Kitts, both of which are Government institutions. A new Government secondary school was opened in Charlestown, Nevis, in 1950. The Convent High School for boys and girls in St. Kitts is a private school managed by the Roman Catholic Church. There are as yet no secondary schools in Anguilla, but it is hoped that one will be built in 1951. The numbers enrolled at these four secondary schools at the end of 1950 were 610 and the average attendance was 575.

The new Charlestown Secondary School provides senior school education for 160 children between the ages of 12 and 16 years. In the senior section of the school, a general education is given in all basic subjects, together with practical education in agriculture and woodwork for boys and in housecraft and light handicrafts for girls. The school also includes an academic wing for 70 pupils.

A mixed Higher School Certificate class was instituted in 1949 at the Boys' Grammar School in St. Kitts, and the examination was taken for the first time at the end of 1950. Five out of the six candidates obtained the certificate.

The Department possesses two 16 mm. sound projectors—one the gift of the British Council—with portable electric generators. These projectors are in regular use. In addition, the Department has three film strip projectors which are extensively used in secondary schools and by various social welfare groups.

In the field of adult education, extra mural classes in various subjects were held under the auspices of the tutor of the University College of the West Indies. Many primary school teachers also voluntarily held night schools in the rural areas during the years under review.

With regard to the training of teachers, vacation courses of one week's duration were organised in both 1949 and 1950. The courses were designed to give specialised instruction in the method of teaching various subjects and to stimulate the interest of teachers in various aspects of community life. The 1950 course was of an extremely high standard, thanks to the generous assistance given by visiting lecturers from the University College of the West Indies and the British Council. Five male and nine female teachers attended training colleges in Trinidad and Antigua during the years under review. Fourteen intending teachers were selected in 1949 and 1950 and sent to secondary schools for a three year course. Grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds enabled a handcraft instructress to undertake a training course in Jamaica and a supervising teacher to undertake a course in education in the United Kingdom during the years under review.

### *Montserrat*

The age limits of primary education, which is free to all, are from five to 15 years. Education is compulsory for all children between the ages of five and 13 years. Primary education is under Government control, except for one school managed by the Roman Catholic Church, which receives an annual subvention. There are 11 Government schools. The following table gives comparative figures for enrolment and attendance during the past five years :

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Enrolment . . .	3,293	3,238	3,287	3,291	3,246
Average attendance . . .	2,638	2,795	2,558	2,819	2,772
Percentage . . .	80.1	86.3	77.8	85.6	85.3

It will thus be seen that the level of average attendance in the primary schools is gratifyingly high.

The cost of primary education is met from public funds. In 1949, such expenditure amounted to \$64,780, of which \$61,130 was met from local revenue and \$3,650 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In 1950, the amount so spent was \$68,299, of which \$64,660 was met from local revenue and \$3,639 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.



NELSON'S HARBOUR, ANTIGUA

*A view of the ancient Dockyard which was once Lord Nelson's Headquarters*





*With acknowledgments to D. J. Wilson*

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE AT CADES BAY AGRICULTURAL  
STATION, NEVIS



HURRICANE DAMAGE TO ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN  
CHURCH, FALMOUTH, ANTIGUA



FORT JAMES, ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA



ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, MONTSERRAT, BUILT FROM  
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE FUNDS





#### SALT PONDS IN ST. KITTS

*The salt in the basket nearest the camera has just been taken out of the pond.  
The other basket contains salt after it has been washed.*



There is a Government secondary school in Plymouth. At the end of 1949 the school had an enrolment of 146, of whom 76 were boys and 70 girls; 15 of these students were Government scholars. At the end of 1950 the roll had increased to 158, of whom 87 were boys and 71 girls; there were 16 Government scholars.

In 1949, the cost of the secondary school amounted to \$15,482; the sum of \$5,616 was paid in school fees. The corresponding figures for 1950 were \$12,374 and \$6,269. Fees amount to \$43.20 per annum for girls and \$50.40 for boys.

The Leeward Islands Scholarship was awarded in both 1949 and 1950 to scholars of the Montserrat Secondary School on the results of the School Certificate Examinations of the preceding years.

The training of teachers locally by two supervising teachers was continued during the years under review. Primary schools were visited regularly to conduct classes, to give guidance in class teaching to pupil teachers, and to assist the teaching staffs in improved teaching methods. A teachers' vacation course was held during the summer vacation in each year. One assistant teacher returned to the Presidency in 1949, having completed a Homecraft Instructors' course of six months duration in Barbados; the cost was met from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Houses for teachers were erected at Bethel and Salem and the Cork Hill Primary school was completed during 1949. The erection of a new school at St. John's was commenced in January, 1950, and very satisfactory progress had been made by the end of the year. The cost of these projects was met from the Presidency's allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

### *Virgin Islands*

There are 12 elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, of which eight are situated in Tortola, two in Virgin Gorda, and one each in Anegada and Jost Van Dyke. Ten schools are managed by the Methodist Church, one by the Anglican Church and one by the Administration.

School attendance is compulsory for children over five years and under 12 years of age, who live within a two-mile radius of a school and voluntary from 12 to 15 years. In 1949, there was an estimated school population of 1,580, with an enrolment of 1,414 and an average attendance of 1,012. In 1950, the estimated school population was 1,600, with an enrolment of 1,460 and an average attendance of 1,040.

There is one secondary school, in Road Town. It is co-educational and is managed by the Administration. The roll was 48 in 1949 and 58 in 1950. The school is equipped for woodwork and gardening for boys, and for housecraft and needlework for girls. In 1949, the only external examination taken by pupils was the Oversea Junior School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. In 1950, however, candidates were entered for the School Certificate Examination for the first time.

The teaching establishment of the elementary schools at the close of 1950 comprised nine certificated teachers, 15 uncertificated teachers and 34 pupil teachers. In addition, one teacher was being trained at the Government Training College in Trinidad and four at the Moravian Mission's Spring Gardens Training College in Antigua; four students who had been granted scholarships for intending teachers were in training in secondary schools in St. Kitts. The staff of the secondary school comprised one headmaster, one assistant master, two junior assistants, one domestic science mistress, and one woodwork instructor. The two last mentioned also teach their subjects in the Road Town Elementary School.

With regard to adult education, a library service is run as a part of the Education Department, with headquarters in Road Town and deposit centres in six of the districts beyond easy reach of Road Town. There is also a circulating children's library. All services are free and are well used.

A film projector was acquired by the Education Department in 1949 and regular fortnightly programmes of educational and entertainment films have since been shown. These shows have been well received and have played an important part in adult education in the Presidency. Films are obtained on loan from the British Council's representative in Barbados and from the Departments of Public Health and Education in St. Thomas. The lack of electric current has restricted the cinema shows to Road Town and its environs, but film strips have been shown in most of the rural and out-island districts.

Total expenditure on education (including library services, cinema and film strip shows) was \$43,172 in 1949 and \$67,214 in 1950.

#### HEALTH

The health of the people of the Colony during the year 1949 was remarkably good, as weather conditions were favourable and there was an adequate and well distributed rainfall. Whooping cough and mumps were the only epidemic diseases occurring and these were limited to the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis. Enteric fever showed the lowest incidence of any year since 1944, the improvement being most marked in Antigua, where mass inoculation with T.A.B. vaccine was carried out during the first half of the year. Approximately 13,000 received this preventive inoculation in Antigua as compared with about 6,000 in 1948. Malaria continued to show a greatly reduced incidence, the number of cases reported being lower than in 1948.

The vital statistics for 1949 showed a birth rate of 34.7 per 1,000 of population, which was about equal to the average for the five year period, 1945-49. The crude death rate was a record low one of 12.6 per 1,000 of population, the average for the five year period being 15.4. The infant mortality rate was also a record low one, being 78.5 per 1,000 live births as compared with an average of 101.8 for the five year period.

The medical services were maintained as in previous years, though with some difficulty, since it was not found easy to secure replacements of medical officers and nursing sisters.

Considerable progress was made with the training of medical personnel. In 1949 scholarships were awarded to two nursing sisters to enable them to take study leave courses for the Sister Tutor's Diploma and the Health Visitor's Certificate in the United Kingdom. The Chief Sanitary Inspector of St. Kitts-Nevis completed his nine months' course at the British West Indies Training Station in Jamaica, gaining the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Medical Officer in administrative charge of Montserrat spent a month at the Caribbean Medical Centre in Trinidad, studying venereal diseases control, and three nurses from St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, and a dispenser from St. Kitts took a three months' course of training in venereal diseases control there. One District Sanitary Inspector and two nurses from St. Kitts proceeded to Jamaica in September and October, 1949, to undertake courses of training at the British West Indies Training Station. In 1950, two District Health Nurses received three months' training at the Caribbean Medical Centre in venereal diseases control; one dispenser received a twelve months' course of training in laboratory technique at the Central Medical Laboratory in Georgetown, British Guiana; another officer proceeded to Jamaica to undertake the basic course of training for Sanitary Inspectors at the British West Indies Public Health Training Station, whilst another undertook the health visitors' course in Jamaica. Finally, the Superintendent of District Nurses and Midwives in Antigua left for the United Kingdom to take the Nursing Administration (Public Health) course under the auspices of the Royal College of Nursing. All this training was again made possible by grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

An important event in 1949 was the visit of the Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare and to British West Indian Governments on venereal disease control. He spent three months in Antigua assisting with the development of the venereal disease control programme. In particular, he introduced intensive treatment for early syphilis with penicillin on an out-patient basis at the St. John's clinic and carried out a programme of lectures on venereal diseases, illustrated by film shows, in St. John's and many of the country villages. He returned in October, 1950, to follow up the results of the control measures which had been instituted.

Another event of note in 1949 was the visit to St. Kitts-Nevis of the Consulting Malariologist to the Windward and Leeward Islands, for the purpose of assessing the importance of the malaria problem and giving advice as to its control. Medical officers reported 179 cases, 38 from Antigua, 135 from St. Kitts-Nevis and six from Montserrat. Of the cases reported from St. Kitts-Nevis, 127 cases were reported from Nevis. For the first time on record, however, there were no deaths in the Colony attributed to malaria.

The Antigua/Montserrat and the St. Kitts-Nevis sub-units of the Public Health Engineering Unit and the Malaria Control Unit of the Windward and Leeward Islands continued to collaborate with the Presidential Health Departments and the Water Boards. The block vote for sanitary works derived from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was increased from \$4,800 in 1948 to \$9,600 in 1949 and allocated to programmes of communal latrine construction in Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat, individual household latrines in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and other works including minor malarial drainage in Antigua. The Sanitary Superintendent attached to the Unit transferred his headquarters to Antigua from St. Kitts in August, 1949, after completing two years' organisational work in the latter Presidency.

### *Antigua*

In 1950, the remarkably good health conditions which prevailed in Antigua throughout 1949 continued during the first half of the year. There was, however, a deficiency of rainfall during the second quarter of the year which continued in July and August and, during those two months, there occurred a sharp rise in gastro-enteritis attributable to defective water supplies.

The two hurricanes which swept over Antigua and Barbuda in August and September, 1950, destroyed and damaged several thousand houses, rendering some 7,000 people homeless and causing great hardship. Fortunately, fatalities were limited to three and there were few serious casualties. Nor was there any serious outbreak of epidemic disease, with the exception of a continued high incidence of gastro-enteritis with a high mortality amongst infants and young children, and some increase in the incidence of dysentery. But the contrast between health conditions in the first and second halves of the year is reflected in the mortality rate :

<i>Period</i>	<i>Crude death rate</i>	<i>Infant mortality rate</i>
January—June	8.9	48.2
July—December	15.1	114.4

Vital statistics for 1950 showed a birth rate of 36.70 per 1,000 of population, a crude death rate of 11.96 per 1,000 of population and an infant mortality rate of 80.4 per 1,000 live births.

Persons rendered homeless by the hurricanes sought shelter in churches, schools and halls in the villages and city and occupied them for many weeks, thus presenting a difficult public health problem. The Country Board of Health undertook the periodic spraying of these buildings with formalin and with residual D.D.T. suspensions as a precautionary measure with very satisfactory results. As heavy rains accompanied the hurricanes, residual D.D.T. spraying of houses was also carried out as a precautionary measure in seven villages which have all been endemic malarial areas in past years. Only in one village was there any appreciable rise in the incidence of malaria.

Two people were admitted to the Leper Home in 1949, one person died and nine arrested cases were discharged. Admissions numbered five in 1950, comprising three from Antigua, including two readmissions

of arrested cases who were unable to maintain themselves outside the home, and two from Montserrat.

There were 49 admissions to the Central Lunatic Asylum in 1949 compared with 39 in 1948. Nineteen persons were admitted from Antigua, 27 from other Presidencies and three from Dominica. Twenty-three persons were discharged in 1949. Regular issues of Jamaica food yeast as a dietary supplement continued to be made with satisfactory results. There were 48 admissions in 1950, including 28 from Antigua, 19 from other Presidencies and one from Dominica. The operation of transorbital leucotomy was performed on eight selected cases at the hospital, and the mental condition of three of these patients was sufficiently improved for them to be discharged by the end of 1950 ; a fourth patient had shown marked improvement.

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

The year 1950 was not a fortunate one for the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and health conditions were generally unsatisfactory. In September a severe hurricane struck Anguilla, destroying and damaging many houses. During the last week of the year, earthquakes caused serious damage to Government buildings in Nevis, compelling the evacuation of patients from the Alexandra Hospital to the old Infirmary, destroying the dispensary and kitchen, severely damaging the Matron's quarters, and destroying the Cotton Ground Health Centre. There was, fortunately, no loss of life resulting from these disasters.

The vital statistics for 1950 showed a birth rate of 35·25 per 1,000 of population, a crude death rate of 16·49 per 1,000 of population, the average for the five-year period being 15·98, and an infant mortality rate of 108·8 per 1,000 live births.

An epidemic of whooping cough caused the death of 25 children, most of them infants in St. Kitts, and a total of 1,868 cases were recorded. The relatively high death rate among infants, the high tuberculosis death rate, the high rate of incidence of venereal disease and the fact that deficiency diseases are the most common cause of death in children of pre-school age, indicate that preventive medical work is greatly in need of development and it was to this task that the Department devoted most of its efforts in 1950.

The construction of the main Health Centre in Basseterre was nearing completion at the close of 1950, and the Health Centres at Cayon and Tabernacle in St. Kitts, at Combermere in Nevis and at the Valley in Anguilla were completed. The private latrine programme was continued and 1,704 units were completed in Basseterre in 1950.

One patient was admitted to the Leper Home in 1949 and two patients died. Treatment with sulphetron tablets was used in all lepromatous cases who were able to take them.

#### *Montserrat*

The health of the population was generally good in 1950. Acute infective parotitis made its appearance early in the year and spread slowly throughout the Presidency ; the condition was, however, mild

in character and few cases exhibited complications. Some cases of typhoid fever and whooping cough occurred during the latter part of the year but malaria was conspicuous by its absence.

The vital statistics for Montserrat during 1950 showed a birth rate of 33·32 per 1,000 of population, a crude death rate of 13·08 per 1,000 of population and an infant mortality rate of 120·05 per 1,000 live births.

A very welcome gift of a modern motor ambulance was made by the Headquarters of the British Red Cross Society to the local branch. This was received in 1950 and attached to the Glendon Hospital.

One of the Health Nurses was awarded the Florence Nightingale scholarship by the British Red Cross Society in 1949 and she completed a course in nursing administration and public health in the United Kingdom in 1950.

### *Virgin Islands*

The new laboratory building at the Tortola Cottage Hospital was put into use early in 1949 when equipment was received.

## HOUSING

### *Antigua*

The principal types of house used by the poorer sections of the population are wooden, with roofing of galvanised sheets, felt or shingles; stone, with various types of roofing; or wooden, combined with a mixture of clay, marl and lime, and various types of roofing. Ownership varies considerably. In St. John's, a large proportion of working-class houses are rented, whilst in the villages most people own their own houses. The Administration has built 86 houses in three villages for occupation on a hire-purchase basis; they are made of concrete with galvanised roofing and are controlled by the Agricultural Department in conjunction with land settlement schemes. Some of the sugar estates provide houses for their workers built of stone with galvanised roofing.

One of the most significant developments in the improvement of working-class housing during 1949 and 1950 was achieved by the Committee appointed to administer the Labour Welfare Fund, which is derived from an export cess on sugar. This Committee, which began work in February, 1949, has concentrated on the housing conditions of workers in the sugar industry who live in the rural areas. The sites chosen for these developments were the villages in which housing conditions were considered to be the worst in the island. The aim has been to secure freehold tenure of the house and land by the occupants, who have been selected with due regard to their ability to pay the hire-purchase rentals stipulated. Land has, where possible, been acquired by the local Administration adjacent to existing villages in order to secure planned development.

At the end of 1950, nearly \$31,230 had been spent in the erection of 22 new houses, of which 21 were built in concrete blocks and one in wood. A further ten houses of concrete block construction were in course of erection at the end of the year. In addition, the Committee had also issued \$34,313 in loans to 206 persons for repairs, such loans ranging from \$10 to \$950 for a single borrower.

The Slum Clearance and Housing Ordinance and the Town and Country Planning Ordinance were brought into force on 1st June, 1949, a Central Housing and Planning Authority being constituted at the end of that year.

The position with regard to housing in Antigua was materially affected by the hurricanes of 1950. In Antigua, 1,348 houses were completely destroyed and 2,343 damaged, rendering some 6,477 people homeless. In Barbuda, 84 houses were destroyed and 109 damaged, rendering 320 persons homeless. By the end of 1950, however, most of the damaged houses had been repaired and a considerable number of those destroyed were rebuilt without financial assistance from the Administration. The planning of a large scale relief housing programme was nearly completed at the close of the year.

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

Housing conditions in the Presidency are in general poor. In the rural areas of St. Kitts the houses are built mainly of wood and are, in the majority of cases, in a poor state of repair. The villages are chiefly located on estate lands and the villagers occupy these lands either rent-free or at a nominal rental. Most of the houses are owner-occupied but nearly all the estates maintain some houses for the use of their labourers. Overcrowding is prevalent and the facilities for cooking and the sanitary arrangements are extremely primitive in many cases. In the urban areas the main problem continues to be the clearance of slums.

In Nevis the land is in the possession of the occupier and the standard of housing, though not good, is better than in St. Kitts.

Housing in Anguilla suffered severely in the hurricane, 232 houses being completely destroyed and 179 damaged out of a total of 1,185. Out of the grant made by His Majesty's Government for hurricane relief and reconstruction the sum of \$56,880 was made available for these purposes to Anguilla. By the end of 1950, 60 wooden houses, of which five were built from private donations, had been erected.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority has set itself the task of laying out the villages properly and, in some instances, of removing them to more suitable sites, but progress is slow because, though funds have been placed at its disposal by the Committee administering the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, great difficulty has hitherto been experienced in obtaining the services of qualified technical staff.

*Montserrat*

Housing is all privately owned and control is maintained under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance. Most of the houses are built of imported lumber with galvanised roof or shingles. Local lumber is sometimes used.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

*Antigua*

Social Welfare activities in the Presidency are carried out by a Government Social Welfare Officer and by a number of voluntary organisations.

The St. John's Day Nursery, run by a voluntary committee with help from public funds, operated with an increasing measure of success. Attendances in 1950 numbered 6,831, an increase of 1,253 in comparison with 1948. In addition to local public support, practical interest was shown in the nursery by the Antigua Progressive Society of New York which sent supplies of clothing and toys during the years under review. The members of the Junior Link of the Red Cross Society visited the nursery regularly to play games with the children. The village creches at All Saints and Bolans were maintained during these years and the creche at Cedar Grove was reopened. In 1950, the services of a child welfare worker were engaged on a part-time basis to stimulate interest in child welfare activities in the rural areas. Regular visits were made to villages and sections of village playgrounds were prepared for use by the children.

Youth clubs and organisations continued to function but were handicapped by lack of meeting places and equipment. Pioneer clubs were encouraged in the rural areas. The Girl Guide movement expanded a great deal. Efforts to improve village playgrounds were energetically pursued.

Efforts to encourage closer co-operation between various organisations for community betterment continue to make only slow progress owing to jealous guardianship of sectional interests. Particular efforts were made to raise the standard of home-making skills amongst women and handicraft classes and rural cookery demonstrations were carried out. In addition, clergymen and school teachers gave voluntary service in running night schools and promoting cultural activities to brighten village life. The emergence and increasing popularity of "steel" bands attracted much attention.

Routine work continued to be carried out by the statutory village councils in connection with the maintenance of village roads, water supplies and sanitation.

The Board of Guardians for the Poor, assisted by the churches, Salvation Army and certain societies, carried out measures for the relief of destitution. Approximately 1,500 were in receipt of relief from public funds.



One hundred and twelve juvenile cases were brought before the Court in 1949 and 111 in 1950. Though the Probation Officer and the Boys' Training School are used to the fullest extent, the provision of adequate facilities for dealing with juvenile delinquents remains a formidable problem.

### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

This Presidency has a Social Welfare Department which is responsible for certain social welfare services and, in particular, the co-ordination and strengthening of the work of voluntary bodies engaged in this field. The main emphasis in St. Kitts was on youth welfare work; in Nevis, on rural development, working mainly through non-statutory village boards; and in Anguilla the principal emphasis was placed on the strengthening and co-ordination of the work of voluntary organisations, with the special object of encouraging thrift as a feature of all youth groups. In each of the three islands, voluntary service on the part of public-spirited citizens contributed greatly to the degree of success achieved.

In St. Kitts three day nurseries and play centres were maintained, and a voluntary body, the Service League, continued to be responsible for the school feeding scheme, assisted by grants from public funds. Supervision was exercised over seven boys' clubs and seven girls' clubs and various youth clubs were promoted in the rural districts.

A Children's Home for destitutes was opened in 1950 by the St. Christopher Children's Home and Service League Limited; the Home provides accommodation for 24 children and the cost of maintenance was met partly by the League and partly by public funds.

Seven youths were placed on probation in 1949, six of whom responded favourably. Juvenile Courts were established in the Presidency in 1950, and 32 cases were dealt with.

Advice and assistance was also given to the rural Community Associations and their component Community Councils. The number of Community Councils was increased in 1950 from three to five and they undertook active measures for village improvement, such as the care and control of recreation grounds, the raising of funds to establish a play centre, and the provision of further facilities for establishing branch libraries in rural areas. A small community centre was established and managed by one Council, while smaller reading and recreation rooms were maintained in the remaining districts. A successful conference of all the Community Councils was held in 1950.

Classes in village crafts and cottage industries were conducted by the hand-craft instructress, but no success was achieved in organising regular productive groups in the villages.

Grants of out-door pauper relief continued to be made by the Poor Law Boards; \$20,000 were provided from public funds for this purpose.

In Nevis, the school feeding scheme was continued, covering all the primary schools in the island, and assistance was given to village boards. Classes in hand-craft instruction were given in rural areas. The two Community Associations continued to function successfully in co-operation with the youth clubs and savings clubs, and a successful community education week was held by one Association.

In Anguilla, the Community Association and Council continued its community betterment work and secured a small lighting plant and film projector in 1950.

The hand-craft instructress continued to make good progress with craftwork instruction among adult groups. The excellent sisal which the island produces was used to good advantage in making bags, mats, etc., and a ready market was found for such articles. Towards the end of 1949 the instructress was sent to Jamaica on a course of training to study specially methods of production and organised marketing on a commercial basis.

#### *Montserrat*

There is no social welfare officer in this Presidency. The local branch of the British Red Cross Society does, however, undertake certain work which is in the nature of social welfare.

A Juvenile Court, at which a magistrate sits with two assessors, was established in Montserrat in August, 1949. Thirty-one cases were heard by this court in 1949 and 40 in 1950. There is no Government probation officer but probation work of a kind is undertaken by certain responsible members of the community.

#### *Virgin Islands*

The Virgin Islands Social Welfare Council, assisted by contributions from the British Virgin Islands Benevolent Association of New York Inc., continued to do good work during the period under review. The system of outdoor relief financed by the Government continued during 1949 and 1950. No serious cases of juvenile delinquency occurred during the years under review.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

Thirty-three Federal Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the years 1949 and 1950. Of these, the most important were :

(i) An Act to abolish corporal punishment in certain cases. By this Act, corporal punishment was abolished save in certain cases of offences committed by juveniles. Corporal punishment in prisons was abolished except in the case of seven offences against prison discipline when committed by a male person serving a sentence of imprisonment.

(ii) An Act to amend the law with respect to the guardianship, custody and marriage of infants. This extends to the Colony the principal provisions of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1925 (15 & 16 Geo. V., C.45).

(iii) An Act to provide for the care and protection of juveniles, the trial and treatment of juvenile offenders, or other matters connected therewith. This Act has for its main object the prevention of cruelty to, and suitable provision for the care, protection and trial of, persons under the age of 16 years.

(iv) An Act to consolidate the law relating to Coroners. This follows, as regards most of its provisions, the United Kingdom Coroner's Act, 1920 (16 & 17 Geo. V., C.59).

(v) An Act relating to the sale of goods. This is a codification of the law relating to the sale of goods in the Colony and is based on the Sale of Goods Act, 1893 (56 & 57 Vict., C.71).

(vi) An Act to consolidate and amend the laws in force in the Colony relating to wireless telegraphy.

(vii) An Act to amend further the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act. This provides for the summary trial of a juvenile for an indictable offence other than homicide, unless an adult is charged jointly with the juvenile and the committing magistrate thinks it necessary, in the interests of justice, to commit the juvenile as well as the adult person. The Act also makes certain amendments relating to separation and maintenance orders, the effect of which is to bring the local law into line with the provisions of the United Kingdom Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Acts, 1895 to 1925, regarding the grounds on which orders may be made.

(viii) An Act to amend further the Trade Unions Act, 1939. This has for its object, *inter alia*, the amending of the Trade Unions Act, 1939, to permit the members of a trade union to contract out of contributions to the political fund of the union.

(ix) An Act to make provision for the protection of praedial produce.

(x) An Act to abrogate the present legislative authority of, and to provide for the constitution of a Legislative Council of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands. This Act abrogates the power of the Governor to legislate for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands and establishes for the Presidency a Legislative Council composed of 3 official members, 2 nominated members and 4 elected members.

(xi) An Act to implement an Agreement to provide for a unified currency in the Eastern Group of the British Caribbean Territories, comprising Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Colonies of Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica.

(xii) An Act to amend further the Offences Against the Person Act. This increases from 16 to 18 years the age of exemption from a sentence of death.

(xiii) An Act to provide for the employment of persons sentenced to short terms of imprisonment on public works outside the prison.

(xiv) An Act to regulate the manufacture, importation, storage, sale and supply of penicillin and other antibiotic and sulphonamide drugs and other therapeutic substances.

In the Presidency of Antigua, 26 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1949 and 1950. Of these, the most important were :

- (i) An Ordinance to provide for the safe storage of petroleum.
- (ii) An Ordinance to provide for the safe storage of explosives.
- (iii) An Ordinance to make provision for the protection of third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles on roads. This Ordinance introduces into the Presidency of Antigua compulsory third party insurance of motor vehicles, though it had not been brought into force by the end of 1950.
- (iv) An Ordinance to encourage the establishment and development of new industries and to make provision for the grant of certain relief of customs duty and income tax to persons establishing factories in connection with such industries.
- (v) An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorised by the Administration of Antigua and to provide for the creation of stock. This Ordinance is based on a model Bill received from the Secretary of State.

In the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis and Anguilla, 33 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1949 and 1950. Of these, the most important were :

- (i) An Ordinance to establish Land Settlement and Development Boards for the Presidency and to define the powers and duties of such Boards. The Ordinance provides for the establishment of Boards in each of the three islands. The Boards are empowered to purchase, acquire and hold land and are charged with the general duty of promoting the interest of agriculture, the development of land settlement schemes and the encouragement of agricultural enterprise. A land settlement and development fund is provided for, to be operated by the Board in each island.
- (ii) An Ordinance to provide for the proper management of the public hospitals and to establish a poor relief system.
- (iii) An Ordinance to provide for raising a loan of \$480,000 for generating and supplying electricity for the islands of St. Christopher and Nevis.
- (iv) An Ordinance to encourage the hotel industry by granting certain relief in respect of customs duties, pier dues and income tax to persons who expend money upon the construction or equipment of hotels. Income tax relief for five years during a period of eight years is granted to persons licensed under the Ordinance to construct, extend, or equip a hotel. Exemption from customs duties may also be granted in respect of building materials or articles of hotel equipment.
- (v) An Ordinance to provide for the regulation of traffic on roads and for the licensing and taxation of vehicles.

In the Presidency of Montserrat, 17 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1949 and 1950. Of these, the most important were :

- (i) An Ordinance relating to the sale and adulteration of milk. This Ordinance makes it an offence to sell, expose for sale or have in

one's possession for purposes of sale any unwholesome milk and gives powers of inspection and seizure to agents of the Board of Health in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance.

(ii) An Ordinance to make better provision for water supplies, the control and maintenance of water courses and the construction, control and maintenance of all waterworks in Montserrat.

During the years 1949 and 1950, nine Ordinances were made for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands. Of these, the most important were :

(i) An Ordinance to adjust certain fees and revenues payable in the Presidency consequent upon the revaluation of the pound sterling. Owing to the proximity of the British Virgin Islands to the American Virgin Islands, all financial transactions in the former are carried out in United States currency. The revaluation of the pound sterling made it necessary to revise upwards all the fees in the tax Ordinances of the Presidency.

(ii) An Ordinance to provide for the registration of persons entitled to vote at elections for the Legislative Council of the Presidency, as constituted by the Virgin Islands Constitution Act, 1950, and to regulate the procedure at such elections.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

From 1st January, 1950, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and, by virtue of an Order in Council of His Majesty entitled the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands. This Court is presided over by a Chief Justice or Puisne Judges, of whom there are three in number.

Circuit Courts with a jury of nine for the trial of criminal cases are held in the various islands of the Colony as follows : in Antigua, in the months of January, May and October ; in St. Kitts, in the months of February, July and November ; in Nevis, in the months of April and November ; in Montserrat, in the months of March and October ; and in the Virgin Islands, in the month of April. The Attorney-General or the Crown Attorneys have the functions of a Grand Jury. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury for the trial of civil cases where a sum of not more than £50 is involved. These sittings are fixed for the first day of the month in which the Circuit Court sessions are to be held, but in practice they are held contemporaneously with the Circuit Courts, except in the case of the Virgin Islands, where sittings of the Summary Jurisdiction Court are fixed also for the first day of the months of August and December.

Appeals from both of these Courts lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was also created by the Imperial Order in Council of 1939) against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters, and to the West Indian Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of first instance and by leave from any interlocutory order made in the course of any proceedings.

Summary criminal offences are dealt with by Magistrates in each of the four Presidencies. Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of a Judge may be had to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

The following is a summary of the cases heard in the Supreme Court during the years 1949 and 1950 :

	1949				1950			
	No. charged		Ac- quitted	Con- victed	No. charged		Ac- quitted	Con- victed
	Male	Fe- male			Male	Fe- male		
Murder of wife or concubine . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Murder of child . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other murders . .	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	1
Attempted murder . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape . .	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Unnatural crime . .	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person . .	5	1	4	2	6	2	1	7
Praedial larceny . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against property with violence to the person . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property . .	18	3	10	11	21	5	5	21
Other crimes . .	7	—	2	5	1	—	—	1
	33	5	19	19	31	8	8	31

It is noteworthy that the number of convictions dropped from 72 in 1948 to 19 in 1949 and 31 in 1950 and, in particular, that the number of persons convicted of offences against property with violence to the person was nil in 1949 and 1950 as compared with 51 in 1948.

#### POLICE

The Leeward Islands Police Force was created in 1874 to replace the various island police forces in each Presidency. The Force, which is under the command of the Commissioner of Police whose headquarters are in Antigua, is divided into four Divisions as follows : "A" Division in Antigua and Barbuda under the command of a Superintendent, "B" Division in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, which is under the command of a Superintendent, "C" Division in Montserrat,

under the command of an Assistant Superintendent, and "D" Division in the Virgin Islands, under the command of a Station Sergeant.

The Divisions are again divided into areas under the control of non-commissioned officers. In all, there are 29 police stations throughout the Colony.

The strength of the Force in 1949 and 1950 was as follows :

	1949	1950
"A" Division (Antigua and Barbuda) .	125	132
"B" Division (St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla) .	105	105
"C" Division (Montserrat) . . . .	31	32
"D" Division (Virgin Islands) . . . .	4	3
	<hr/> 265	<hr/> 272

In addition to the foregoing, there was in 1950 an establishment of 17 non-commissioned officers and men for the fire brigade in Antigua, which comes under the control of the Commissioner of Police.

Forty-eight inter-divisional transfers were made in 1949 and 31 in 1950.

Communications between the several Divisions is by radio-communication, steamer, schooner and sloop in the case of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, while there is also air communication between Antigua and St. Kitts. There is no direct radio-communication with the Virgin Islands, but there is air and radio-communication with Charlotte Amalie, the capital of the adjoining American Virgin Islands. Internal communications within each Presidency are maintained either by motor truck, station waggon, horse or bicycle, in addition to the bus services where they exist.

Some recruit training was undertaken at headquarters despite the lack of adequate facilities, 26 men being trained in 1949 and 21 in 1950. In the latter year, one Superintendent left for the United Kingdom to take a course at the Police Training College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, while four non-commissioned officers were sent to police headquarters in Trinidad to take courses in criminal investigation work, including fingerprints and photography. The cost of the first course is to be met from the £1½ million scheme for Colonial Service training, while the cost of the other four courses was met from grants made under the West Indies General Training Scheme, D.1108.

Criminal statistics show a gratifying decrease over the last three years, the number of cases reported falling from 19,407 in 1948 to 15,672 in 1949 and 13,616 in 1950. Of the number of cases reported in 1950, 640 were of a serious nature. In 1950, 4,438 persons were convicted, of whom 3,057 were males, 1,160 females and 221 were juveniles.

Smuggling, particularly of cigarettes and to a lesser degree of liquor, continued on a fairly large scale, into Antigua. In 1948 there were 118 prosecutions for this offence, while the numbers in 1949, 1950, were 111 and 113 respectively. On the other hand, the number of prosecutions in St. Kitts fell from 175 in 1946 to 12 in 1950, and in Montserrat from 22 in 1946 to two in 1950 respectively.

*Antigua*

The prison in Antigua accommodates all Antigua prisoners, together with some long-term prisoners from other Presidencies. There is accommodation for 120 men and 30 women, comprising 66 individual cells for males, and 25 for females, together with 10 association cells for men and one for women. There are separate infirmaries for male and female prisoners.

The subordinate staff under the control of the Keeper of the Prison comprises 23 men and three women.

In 1949, 233 males and 33 females were admitted to the prison, the daily average being 126; in 1950, 192 men and 16 women were admitted, the daily average being 101. The health of the prisoners during the years under review was generally good.

The Prison Surgeon visits the prison three times weekly and daily if required. Prisoners who are seriously ill are treated under suitable precautions at the hospital.

The Visiting Justices to the prison hold meetings regularly, inspect the buildings, enquire into complaints from the prisoners, and try serious cases of breaches of prison discipline.

There is a workshop at the prison where carpentry, tin-smithing and shoe repairing are taught to the male prisoners. There is also a prison bakery. Female prisoners spend most of their time in cleaning, laundry work and sewing.

Ten acres of land, completely enclosed, is allocated to the prison authorities at the central agricultural station at Friar's Hill and a hut is erected there to accommodate six first offenders.

There is also a boys' training school, adjoining the prison, the purpose of which is to provide for the reformation, education and training of all boys under the age of 18 years convicted summarily or on indictment. The maximum accommodation is for 20 boys. The principal occupation of the boys is gardening.

The prison buildings suffered considerable damage as a result of the hurricanes which struck Antigua in 1950 and were deprived of electricity for some weeks.

*St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

The prison in Basseterre accommodates prisoners from the three islands, the maximum accommodation being for 57 males and 18 females. The staff comprises 14 male and two female officers.

In 1949, 332 persons were admitted to the prison, the daily average in the prison being 53·5. In 1950, 336 persons were admitted, the daily average being 58·6. The health of the prisoners during both years was generally good, only 16 prisoners being admitted to hospital in 1949 and 10 in 1950.

Despite the foregoing figures, the incidence of crime showed some decrease from previous years and there was a drop in the numbers of juveniles and young offenders admitted. The percentage of recidivists remained about constant at 58·5 per cent during the period under review.



An interesting development in the Presidency was the establishment of a prison farm in Nevis during the years under review. The intention has been to develop this farm for the accommodation of young offenders and "star class" prisoners, provide accommodation in separate huts holding 12 prisoners each, a common dining room and a workshop. The farm comprises approximately 120 acres of land, a large area of which was rendered cultivable during the period under review. It is cultivated almost wholly in ground provisions, with the result that the farm is to a large extent self-supporting, in addition to supplying produce to the prison at St. Kitts. The daily average number of prisoners at the farm was 15 in 1949 and 18 in 1950.

### *Montserrat*

In 1949, 95 males and 14 females were admitted to the prison, and the numbers in 1950 were 176 and 22 respectively. The staff comprises one Keeper, 8 warders and a matron. The occupations of the prisoners, and the arrangements for visits to the prison by the Visiting Justices and the medical authorities are much the same as those in Antigua.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

### *Antigua*

*Telephone System.* The Presidency is served by a publicly owned telephone system, comprising one central exchange of a capacity of 300 subscribers, though it is now serving nearly 400 persons, and two branch exchanges of a capacity of 50 subscribers each. The system is an earth return magneto type of ancient vintage, having been installed in the latter part of the 19th century. It continues to give a mediocre service but is now quite inadequate to meet the increasing demand for telephonic communication, particularly in the City and Hodges Bay areas.

The system was very severely damaged by the two hurricanes which struck Antigua in August and September, 1950, and it is estimated that 80 per cent of all installations were destroyed. Repairs had, however, been effected by the close of the year.

During the second half of 1950, representatives of the General Post Office, London, and of Cable and Wireless Limited undertook a survey of the system with a view to its modernisation or replacement.

*Electricity.* The City of St. John's continued to be served by an electric light system taken over by the Administration from the Antigua Electric Light Company in 1948. It is a 220 volt D.C. system and quite inadequate for the demands made upon it. In August, 1949, however, the Administration purchased outright from the American authorities one power plant at Coolidge Field consisting of three 150 kw. engines. There is, in addition, at Coolidge Field, another power plant of similar capacity required for the maintenance

of civil aviation facilities. These plants supply alternating current. The Administration thus had at its disposal plants capable of producing more power than there is at present a demand for and, indeed, more power than the maximum potential future requirements of the Presidency. During 1950, extensions were made of the current from Coolidge Field to the Beach Hotel, the adjoining Hodges Bay residential area and the village of Cedar Grove. Other extensions were also made to the village of Parham and to the Holberton Hospital on the outskirts of St. John's. At the close of 1950 plans were being drawn up for the further extension of this system, particularly to St. John's, with a view to the replacement of the D.C. plant in the City.

The hurricanes caused very considerable damage to power lines. This factor and the fires which broke out in St. John's both before and after the hurricanes revealed the extremely bad state of the wiring particularly in the City. Wiring in Government buildings is gradually being replaced and an electrical inspector was appointed to check the wiring in all buildings in the City so as to ensure that current is not supplied to buildings in which the wiring constitutes a fire hazard.

*Water Supply.* There are no rivers or streams of any consequence in Antigua and the principal sources of water supplies are : the Body Ponds catchment area of 2,000 acres which has five earthen reservoirs with masonry dams holding 26 million gallons of water ; Breckknocks, with a watershed of 200 acres, where there is a dam of similar construction impounding  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons of water ; Wallings and Fig Tree with a capacity of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons ; and various springs which supply 15,000 to 20,000 gallons a day under normal weather conditions.

In January, 1950, the water supply at Coolidge Field was taken over by the Administration following the closing of the American Base. The rain is caught on the two concrete runways whence it runs through two rough filters into two reservoirs of a capacity of one million gallons each. This supply is also supplemented by three drilled wells.

After the very severe drought of 1948, the rainfall in 1949 and 1950 was comparatively plentiful. The supply position was vastly better but, nevertheless, supplies had to be restricted for periods of about six weeks in each year. The heavy rains, however, and the fact that the catchments are earthen prevented the water settling properly in the impounding reservoirs and the turbidity of the water presented a difficult problem. This difficulty was rendered more acute by the fact that the filter plants are old and that the demand for water far exceeds the supply at the accepted filtration rates.

In August, 1949, the station at Body Ponds was destroyed by fire and the building and chlorination plant were a total loss. The pumps, the alum treatment plant and the pressure filters were also damaged. The station was subsequently rebuilt. The hurricanes of August and September, 1950, also did a considerable amount of damage to the water system, though the damage was not sufficient to disrupt the main supplies seriously.

There is no doubt that water supplies constitute one of the Presidency's biggest problems ; supplies are quite inadequate for the demand and the distribution system is badly in need of extensive expansion and maintenance. A plan had been prepared earlier for the construction of a dam to impound water in Christian Valley, the largest catchment area in the south-western hills. Before proceeding with this, however, it was decided in 1950 to undertake deep drilling in the area, both to ascertain whether there were adequate foundations for such a dam and whether there were as yet untapped underground sources of water in the area. A new drilling rig was ordered from the Crown Agents and preparations for these works were commenced at the close of the year.

*Public Works.* The principal public works undertaken in 1949 were as follows : the construction of quarters at Swetes Village for a medical officer, the completion of the school at Green Bay built from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, the construction of an additional ward for male patients at the Fiennes Institute, the construction of examination and treatment rooms at the Central Lunatic Asylum, extensive repairs to the public market, and improvements to the wharf area in the vicinity of the public market.

In 1950 quarters for a medical officer were constructed at Carty's Hill, nurses' quarters and hostel at the Holberton hospital, master's quarters at the Fiennes Institute, matron's quarters at the Leper Home, a storeroom at the Central Lunatic Asylum, and latrines at the Cobb's Cross and Five Islands Schools. Repairs to the public market were also completed.

The hurricanes of August and September, 1950, did very extensive damage to Government buildings, which were fortunately insured. Extensive repairs were necessary to the schools at Cobb's Cross, All Saints, Green Bay, St. John's Boys' School and the Point School. The last five months of 1950 were almost wholly devoted to repairing the damage to those schools, to the hospital, the Fiennes Institute, the prison and the wharf.

Road maintenance work was steadily undertaken during the years under review and all the roads in the island are now in a much improved condition.

### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

*Telephone system.* The present system is not very efficient and is expensive to maintain. During the second half of 1950 representatives of the General Post Office, London, and Cable and Wireless Limited carried out a survey of the system with a view to making recommendations for its improvement or replacement. The heavy winds and rains accompanying the hurricanes of 1950 caused severe damage and resulted in heavy expenditure in replacing broken poles and lines.

*Electricity.* The construction of the new power station in St. Kitts was commenced in 1950 but progress was retarded to some extent by delays experienced in deliveries of steel and other equipment ordered from the United Kingdom.

*Water Services.* Little progress was made during the years under review with the various approved schemes for improving the water supplies in the three islands. The principal reasons were the lack of technical staff and the shortage of materials.

*Public Works.* The construction of new buildings and the reconstruction of existing ones, as provided for in the Presidency's Development Plan, continued. The following buildings were completed during the years under review: the health centre in Basseterre, health centres in the villages of Cayon and Tabernacle in St. Kitts, Combermere in Nevis, and at the Valley in Anguilla, the Senior School in Charlestown, Nevis, and the West End School in Anguilla. All these buildings were erected with Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In addition, married quarters were built at the police stations at Dieppe Bay and Sandy Point in St. Kitts, quarters for a medical officer in Anguilla and a nurses' annexe at the Alexandra Hospital in Nevis.

### *Montserrat*

*Telephone system.* A two-wire metallic telephone system serves most parts of the island and gives a fair service. The central exchange is in Plymouth and at the end of 1950 there were 77 installations.

*Electricity.* There is no electricity system in Montserrat, but plans were prepared in 1950 for such a scheme.

*Water supply.* Mountain springs throughout the island are the source of water supplies. Plymouth and the southern part of the island are supplied with water from four springs in the mountains east of the town, the output of three of these springs being piped to a reservoir above Plymouth. The water supply in the north of the island is inadequate to meet the demand.

*Public Works.* The principal works undertaken in 1949 were the erection of a new police station at Cudjoe Head, extensive repairs and alterations to the Glendon Hospital and the Infirmary, and structural repairs to the chill rooms of the cold storage plant. One and a quarter miles of main road were tar sealed.

In 1950, the new school at Cork Hill was completed and the school at St. John's about 80 per cent completed. The cost of these schools is being met from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In addition, the Kinsale bridge received major repairs and a new bus parking station in Plymouth was almost completed by the close of the year. Further tar sealing of main roads was also undertaken.

### *Virgin Islands*

*Telephone system.* There is no telephone system in the Virgin Islands.

*Electricity.* A small A.C. electricity plant was installed by Government in Road Town in June, 1950. It provides a daily 6-hour service for lighting the street and supplying current to private individuals.

*Public Works.* The principal works undertaken were the rehabilitation of Government House, the reconstruction of the main wharf in Road Town, and the complete reconstruction of the main street in Road Town which was not, however, completed by the end of 1950.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### SHIPPING

During the years under review, communications between the Colony and the United Kingdom were maintained by vessels of the Harrison Line, which called approximately once a month at Antigua and St. Kitts to discharge cargo and load sugar and cotton for the United Kingdom. During the crop season for sugar more frequent calls are made. These vessels call about four times during the last five months of each year at Montserrat in order to load cotton for the United Kingdom. In 1950, a vessel belonging to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique also maintained a regular service between Antigua and the United Kingdom.

Canadian National Steamships maintained a regular northbound and southbound service during the years under review, calling at Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat. Additional calls were also made by smaller passenger and cargo carrying vessels of the same company. In addition, regular calls are also made at St. Kitts and Antigua by southbound vessels of the Alcoa Steamship Company from New York. These vessels also call sometimes at Montserrat.

These inter-island shipping services are also supplemented by a small Dutch passenger and cargo carrying steamer which calls at Antigua and St. Kitts en route from Curaçao to St. Martin, by two motor vessels of about 100 tons each—the *Caribbee* and the *Moneka*—which ply between these islands and also visit the Windward Islands, Barbados and Curaçao, and by numerous sloops and schooners which ply between the Leeward Islands themselves and between this Colony and other British West Indian Colonies.

Sea communication between the Virgin Islands and the other Presidencies is maintained by schooners and sloops.

### CIVIL AVIATION

In 1950, British West Indian Airways maintained a thrice weekly service between Antigua and St. Kitts, and regular services from Antigua to other parts of the British West Indies. The service to Jamaica connects with the British Overseas Airways service to the United Kingdom.

Pan American World Airways maintained a service between Puerto Rico and Trinidad, which calls thrice weekly northbound and southbound at Antigua.

K.L.M. maintain a service between Curaçao and St. Martin, which calls at Guadeloupe and St. Kitts en route.

## RAILWAYS

There are only two light narrow gauge railways in the Colony, in Antigua and St. Kitts ; these are used for the transport of sugar cane to the factories and for the carriage of sugar to the wharves.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintain stations in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat and have extended their radio-telephony service to the principal islands in the British West Indies, the United Kingdom and Canada.

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony.

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 422 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degree of west longitude, and between the 15th and 19th degrees of north latitude; but Anguilla, Sombbrero, and still more the Virgins group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, etc.) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, and Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain. Nevis was a fashionable health resort in the 18th century on account of its hot medicinal baths which may still be used.

The climate of Antigua is drier than most of the other West Indian Islands and is delightful from the end of November to the beginning of May, when the north-east trade winds begin to fail. The hot season then sets in, during which the weather is generally rainy. The shade temperature seldom exceeds 90°F. and the average annual range is between 70° and 90°F. The island is subject to droughts but the mean annual rainfall is between 43 and 45 inches.

The climate of St. Kitts-Nevis is tropical but healthy, the mean average temperature being 78·8°F. and the average rainfall 55 inches per annum.

The climate of Montserrat is also tropical and healthy. The mean annual temperature is about 82°F. and the average rainfall 62 inches per annum. The weather is cool from December to March but hot from July to October inclusive.

The climate of the Virgin Islands is most equable. The shade temperature rarely rises above 86°F. or falls below 65°F. Only from mid-August to early November does the weather become hot. Rain-fall averages about 50 inches per annum, but droughts are not unknown.

### Chapter 2: History

The Leeward Islands were discovered in 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named Antigua after a church in Seville.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be settled by the English when Sir Thomas Warner, Captain of the King's Body Guard, brought out a number of farmers and artisans in 1623. Antigua was visited by some Spaniards under Don Antonio Serrano in 1520; an abortive attempt at settlement was made by d'Esnambuc, Captain

of a French privateer in 1629, but there was no permanent settlement until in 1632 Englishmen from St. Kitts, under Egbert, the son of Sir Thomas Warner, established themselves. Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632 and the Virgin Islands, named after St. Ursula and the 11,000 virgins, were first settled by Dutch buccaneers in 1648.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat were captured and occupied by the French for various periods during the 17th and 18th century but have remained in British possession since the beginning of the 19th century. English buccaneers expelled their Dutch rivals from the Virgin Islands in 1666 and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony.

The best known events in the Presidency's history are perhaps the defence of Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts in 1782, an action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French Fleet at "The Saints," near Dominica, and the construction of the Naval Dockyard at English Harbour at Antigua in 1725, where Nelson, then commander of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, lived between 1785 and 1787 and married the young widow Nisbet. In 1750 Sir Alexander Hamilton son of a Scottish planter and chief draughtsman of the American Constitution was born in Charlestown, Nevis, where the remains of his alleged birth-place are still to be seen. The following are some of the important events in the Colony's history between 1600 and 1900 :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1607	Nevis visited by English colonists.
1623	Settlement of St. Christopher by Thomas Warner on 28th January.
1625	Antigua, St. Christopher, Nevis and Barbuda taken under Royal protection by patent under the Great Seal of England, 13th September. Thomas Warner, after a visit to England, and Sieur d'Esnambuc landed about the same day in St. Christopher.
1626	Commission given by Richelieu, in October, to Sieur d'Esnambuc to people the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and any other situated "at the entrance of Peru".
1627	Division of St. Christopher by the English and French. Grant by letters patent, dated 2nd June, to the Earl of Carlisle, of all the Caribbean Islands including Barbados.
1628	Mr. Littleton, a planter at St. Christopher, obtained a grant of Barbuda.
1632	Antigua and Montserrat colonised from St. Christopher by Sir T. Warner and his son.
1640-47	Sugar industry introduced into the Leeward Islands.
1648	Temporary settlement of Tortola by the Dutch.
1661	Barbuda colonised from Antigua.
1666	St. Christopher taken by the French and many English inhabitants expelled. Antigua also invaded and plundered.



## Year

## Event

- 1667      Montserrat taken by the French (February). By the Treaty of Breda (21st July), the English part of St. Christopher and Antigua and Montserrat declared English.
- 1671      Leeward Islands separated from Barbados. Commission to Sir Charles Wheeler as Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, with headquarters at Nevis (25th January).
- 1681      Antigua devastated by a hurricane.
- 1689      French planters expelled English settlers from St. Christopher.
- 1696      Antigua selected as the seat of Government.
- 1706      St. Christopher attacked by a French fleet. Capitulation of Nevis. Mr. Parke appointed Governor.
- 1710      Governor Parke killed.
- 1722      Hurricane in St. Christopher.
- 1769      Disastrous fire in St. John's, Antigua.
- 1774      The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February.
- 1782      Surrender of Brimstone Hill to the Marquis de Bouillé (13th February). St. Christopher, Nevis and Montserrat captured. Victory of Rodney over de Grasse off the Saints (12th April).
- 1786      Visit to Antigua of Prince William Henry in the *Pegasus* frigate (Clarence House) with Captain Nelson of H.M.S. *Boreas* in attendance.
- 1789      Great drought in Antigua.
- 1807      Abolition of the slave trade.
- 1816      Antigua, Barbuda and Montserrat constituted a separate Government, while St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands were made a separate colony.
- 1871      Federation of the Leeward Islands. Hurricane in Antigua.
- 1871-74   Severe drought in Antigua.
- 1880      Visit of H.M.S. *Bacchante* with Prince George on board.
- 1896      Great flood in Montserrat caused considerable destruction and loss of life. The flood was followed by several series of earthquakes.
- 1897      Appointment of Royal Commission to enquire into conditions and prospects of the West Indian Colonies with particular regard to the depression in the sugar industry.
- 1899      Severe hurricane swept over Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, followed by a second storm which visited Antigua. Montserrat suffered heavy damage.
- 1916      Cyclone did considerable damage to the Virgin Islands.
- 1920      Visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in H.M.S. *Renown*.
- 1924      Hurricane struck Montserrat.
- 1928      Hurricane struck Montserrat.
- 1937      Presidential Legislative Councils were reconstituted.
- 1940      Dominica was separated from the Leeward Islands Colony and grouped with the Windward Islands.

*Year**Event*

- 1950 Two severe hurricanes struck Antigua and Barbuda in the space of 12 days, causing great damage. Anguilla was struck by one and suffered severely. Severe earth tremors in Nevis and St. Kitts.

## Chapter 3: Administration

The present Federal Constitution of the Leeward Islands dates from an Imperial Act of 1871 under which the Leeward Islands Colony was constituted, consisting then of five Presidencies, namely, Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda; St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla; Montserrat; Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. Dominica by her own wish ceased to be a Presidency for Leeward Islands in 1940 and became a separate colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands.

The colony now consists of the four Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. There is one Governor of the colony. His representatives in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla are styled Administrators and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners.

The colony has a Federal Executive Council and a General Legislative Council. All the members of the former and the official members of the latter are appointed by the Crown, while the unofficial members of the latter, three each from Antigua and St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, two from Montserrat and one from the Virgin Islands, are elected by and from the unofficial members of the Legislatures of their respective Presidencies.

Each Presidency has an Executive and a Legislative Council. The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects, so far as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter. The duration of each Legislative Council is normally limited to three years. The Executive Councils consist of official members and a number of nominated unofficial members; the Legislative Council of official nominated and elected unofficial members. The elected unofficial members, except in British Virgin Islands, are at present a minority of the Councils. These arrangements, except for the Virgin Islands date from 1937 and in the Virgin Islands from the reconstitution of the Legislative Council in 1950.

Constitutional reform, including the replacement of the present franchise, restricted by literacy and property qualifications, by adult suffrage, and providing for elected majorities on the Legislative Council with election of some members of Legislative Councils to Executive Councils, are under consideration in respect of Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat.

The Governor normally resides in Antigua but makes annual visits to the Presidencies where, for the time being, he administers the Government of the Colony.

The business of central government is carried on by departments of Administration, Agriculture, Audit, Education, Legal, Medical, Police, Post Office, Public Works and Treasury.

#### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

In St. John's, Antigua, there is a municipal body called the City Commissioners, which is comprised partly of officials and partly of unofficals. This body administers city affairs, while district matters are attended to by the Antigua Country Board of Health. A Central Board of Health exercises sanitary supervision over roads, public tanks, ponds, wells, wharves and any public market in any of the towns or villages. Separate Boards are appointed to enforce rules and regulations made by the Central Board. Village Councils have been appointed in some of the principal villages.

St. Kitts is divided for the purposes of local Boards into nine parishes. A Central Board, assisted by various Boards of Health, deals with particular districts.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Standard imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided for by law.

## Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following are the principal newspapers and periodicals at present published in this Colony :

#### A N T I G U A

Weekly . . . *Leeward Islands Gazette.*  
Daily . . . *Antigua Star ; Workers' Voice ; Antigua Magnet*

#### S T . K I T T S - N E V I S

Fortnightly . . . *St. Christopher-Nevis Official Gazette.*  
Weekly . . . *Workers' Weekly ; Democrat.*  
Daily . . . *St. Christopher-Nevis Daily Bulletin ; Union Messenger.*

#### M O N T S E R R A T

Weekly . . . *Montserrat Observer.*

#### V I R G I N I S L A N D S

Nil.

- Agriculture in the West Indies.* Colonial No. 182, 1942. (*out of print*).  
*West India Royal Commission Report on Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Veterinary Matters*, by F. L. ENGLEADOW. Cmd. 6608, 1945. 3s. 6d. (3s. 10d.).
- Report of the West Indian Sugar Commission.* Parts I, II, III. Cmd. 3517, 1930. 2s. (2s. 2d.). Part IV. Colonial No. 49, 1930. 3s. 6d. (3s. 8d.). Statement of Policy in regard to the Report, Cmd. 3523, 1930. 1d. (2½d.).
- Nutrition in the West Indies.* Report by B. S. PLATT. Colonial No. 195, 1946. 9d. (11d.).
- Labour Conditions in the West Indies.* Report by G. St. J. ORDE BROWNE. Cmd. 6070, 1939. 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).
- Report of the West Indies Committee of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies.* Cmd. 6654, 1945. 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).
- Report on West Indian Shipping Services.* Commonwealth Shipping Committee, 1948. 1s. (1s. 2d.).
- Agreement relating to Bases leased to the United States of America.* Treaty series No. 2, 1941. Cmd. 6259, 1941. 9d. (10½d.).
- Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago. Report of the Closer Union Commission.* Cmd. 4383, 1933. 1s. (1s. 1½d.).
- Report by SIR SIDNEY ARMITAGE-SMITH on a Financial Mission to the Leeward Islands and St. Lucia.* Cmd. 3996, 1932. 2s. (2s. 2d.).
- Report of a Commission appointed to consider the problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands and Windward Islands, 1931-32.* Colonial No. 79, 1933. 2s. (2s. 2d.).
- Education in the Windward and Leeward Islands. Report of the Education Commissioners.* Colonial No. 164, 1939. (*Out of print*).
- Papers relating to the disturbances in St. Christopher.* Cmd. 4956, 1935. 3d. (4½d.).





# COLONIAL REPORTS

## ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND	GOLD COAST	N. RHODESIA
BECHUANALAND	HONG KONG	NYASALAND
PROTECTORATE	JAMAICA	SARAWAK
BRITISH GUIANA	KENYA	SIERRA LEONE
BR. HONDURAS	FED. OF MALAYA	SINGAPORE
BRUNEI	MAURITIUS	SWAZILAND
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FIJI	NORTH BORNEO	UGANDA

## BIENNIAL REPORTS

*ADEN	GIBRALTAR	ST. VINCENT
BAHAMAS	GILBERT AND	*SEYCHELLES
BARBADOS	ELLICE IS.	*SOLOMON IS.
*BERMUDA	GRENADA	SOMALILAND
*CAYMAN IS.	*LEEWARD IS.	TONGA
*DOMINICA	*NEW HEBRIDES	*TURKS AND
FALKLAND IS.	ST. HELENA	CAICOS IS.
GAMBIA	*ST. LUCIA	*ZANZIBAR

\* These territories will produce a Report for 1949-50 and the remainder for 1950-51.

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*COLONIAL REPORTS*

# Leeward Islands

1953 and 1954

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## PART I

### General Review of 1953 and 1954

THE highlight of the years under review was undoubtedly the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II which was celebrated with great acclaim in all four Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony. Apart from the local celebrations, two elected members of the General Legislative Council, one each from Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, attended the Coronation in Westminster Abbey whilst members of the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat Defence Forces marched in the Coronation procession.

In the Presidencies, local Coronation Committees, with many sub-committees, worked and planned for many months and the response of all sections of the population was overwhelming. The Legislative Councils of the four Presidencies passed resolutions offering respectful homage to Her Majesty and expressing feelings of the deepest loyalty and devotion to the person of Her Majesty and the Throne. Not only were the City of St. John's and the other principal towns gaily decorated and lit but the festivities, which included parades, carnival processions, sports, horse-racing, fireworks, bonfires, dancing and tree-planting ceremonies, surpassed by far anything previously seen in these islands. In addition, services were held in churches of all denominations and foodstuffs were distributed to the poor and needy. At no time within living memory have there been such spontaneous demonstrations of loyalty and devotion to the Crown.

#### *Constitutional Reform*

Despite the severe drought suffered in Antigua and, to a lesser extent, in the other Presidencies, during the period under review, development has proceeded apace in all Presidencies. Perhaps the most important has been in the field of constitutional reform. The principal measures of constitutional reform introduced in 1951 and 1952 provided in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat for a majority of elected members in the Legislative Councils, the election of a Deputy President in those Councils, the creation of constituencies for polling purposes, and the election by the elected and nominated members of the Legislatures of certain of their elected members to serve on the Executive Councils. Simultaneously, either the so-called "Committee" or "Membership" systems were introduced in all Presidencies. The former system stems from a recommendation originally made by the West India Royal Commission of 1938 and is designed to enable the elected members to be brought into closer touch with the actual administration of Government, firstly, by enabling the elected members to

exercise more influence over the way in which their Government is run and, secondly, by helping them to understand more about the internal workings of the machinery of Government. Under the "Committee" system, Committees comprising elected and nominated members of the Legislatures were set up on a non-statutory basis to advise Government on various aspects of the activities of Government. In Antigua, there are three Committees, dealing with Trade and Production, Social Services, and Public Works and Communications. The Chairmen of the three Committees are the three elected members on the Executive Council. In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, only two Committees were set up, dealing with Trade and Production and Public Works and Communications. In St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, the "Membership" system was introduced; this is really a quasi-ministerial system, the elected members on the Executive Council being termed "Member" for Trade and Production, Social Services, and Public Works and Communications and being responsible for advising Government on such matters. It should be emphasized that the "Committees" or "Members" function on a purely advisory basis.

There is no doubt but that the introduction of these systems, which associate the elected members of the Legislatures with Government, has proved an outstanding success in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. They have given a marked impetus to Government activities and have admirably paved the way for the introduction of a Ministerial system which the Secretary of State, in December, 1954, approved should be introduced in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla in 1955.

Measures of constitutional reform similar to those introduced in respect of the other three Presidencies were also brought into effect in the Presidency of the British Virgin Islands late in 1954. However, whereas, prior to the constitutional change, the "Committee" system was in operation in that Presidency, after such changes, the "Membership" system was introduced. The latter system was also adopted by Montserrat in 1954.

A major constitutional change, insofar as the Leeward Islands Colony was concerned, was announced late in 1954. In 1949 the Standing Closer Association Committee recommended that the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat should enter the projected British West Indian Federation as separate units (it being recommended that the British Virgin Islands for administrative purposes should come directly under the Governor-General of the proposed Federation). In 1950, the General Legislative Council passed a resolution suggesting that consideration should be given to the abolition of the Leeward Islands Federation which had been constituted by an Act of Parliament as long ago as 1871. In December, 1954, the Secretary of State announced that legislation would be introduced into Parliament as soon as possible, the purpose being to abolish the Leeward Islands Federation, the four Presidencies of the Leeward Islands becoming separate colonies administered in a manner similar to the Windward Islands, save that the Leeward Islands Police Force would remain in existence on a federal basis. Thus, the Leeward Islands Federation, which is one

of the oldest federations now in existence, is likely to disappear in 1956, eighty-five years after its creation.

### *The Civil Service*

Concurrently with the introduction of constitutional reform, and with the object of ensuring that the Civil Service was properly organised and equipped to fulfil its increasing duties and responsibilities under the quasi-ministerial system, a radical overhaul of the Civil Service was carried out as a result of a lengthy investigation undertaken by Mr. S. A. Hammond (formerly Education Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare), whose report on the organisation and salaries of the Service was published in 1953. Salaries were revised with effect from the 1st January, 1952, and a proper salary structure established. General Orders for the Civil Service were published for the first time in the history of the Colony in 1954 and Financial Instructions and Stores Rules were radically revised.

### *Economic Affairs*

Although there were many major developments in public works, water supplies, education, housing, fisheries, land settlement, health, communications and electricity, the years 1953 and 1954 were overshadowed by the severe drought conditions experienced during 1953 and the first half of 1954, which affected all the Presidencies in greater or lesser degree. These drought conditions appear to be recurring with more frequency than in the past and not only have a directly adverse effect on production, but also have an indirectly adverse effect on the progress and development of the territories because they result in lower revenues.

In Antigua the average rainfall recorded from 43 stations in 1953 was 29·08 inches, which was 14·95 inches below the average for the preceding 20 years. Indeed, in the recorded history of the Presidency's rainfall since 1874, the year 1953 was a year of intense drought second only to 1930 when 25·51 inches of rain fell. Whilst the rainfall in St. Kitts in 1953 was 45·76 inches, that was nine inches less than the average for the preceding 40 years. In Montserrat, the rainfall at the experimental station was 44·86 inches, which was 15·68 inches below the average for the preceding 53 years. In Road Town in the British Virgin Islands the rainfall of 47·71 inches was 5·53 inches below the average for the preceding 10 years. Nevertheless, Antigua was by far the hardest hit by the drought. These conditions, which persisted throughout the first six months of 1954, inevitably had an adverse effect on production in 1954.

Nevertheless, in the field of production, the period under review opened promisingly. In Antigua, 31,588 tons of sugar were produced in 1953, a tonnage only once exceeded in the preceding 13 years. In St. Kitts and Nevis, 51,579 tons of sugar were produced in 1953, thus beating the record already established in the preceding year by 965 tons. On the other hand, the production of cotton during that year decreased; in general, smaller acreages were planted owing to uncertainty about



markets, unfavourable weather conditions, and, in the case of Montserrat, owing to unsettled labour conditions which delayed the opening of the planting season. In Antigua, production of clean lint dropped from 577,773 lbs. in 1952 to 277,204 lbs. in 1953; in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla from 559,301 lbs. in 1952 to 439,612 lbs. in 1953; and in Montserrat from 485,884 lbs. in 1952 to 339,856 lbs. in 1953.

The full effects of the drought in 1953 were, however, severely felt in 1954 when sugar production in Antigua dropped to only 12,601 tons; but in St. Kitts, where drought conditions were not so severe, production dropped only to 49,922 tons. Whilst production of clean lint cotton in Antigua remained stable at 278,567 lbs. in 1954, production in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat increased to 415,459 lbs. and 409,359 lbs. respectively.

Production in both years was materially assisted by the fact that labour relations throughout the period were excellent, save in Montserrat where labour unrest in the last quarter of 1952 persisted throughout the first few months of 1953.

In the Virgin Islands, marketing difficulties and drought conditions resulted in a decrease in exports of livestock, the Presidency's principal industry, in 1953; but increased prices and the impetus provided by the agricultural credit scheme, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, which enables farmers to obtain loans for fencing materials and the improvement and expansion of pastures, caused exports to rise from 3,267 head in 1953 to 4,635 in 1954.

An important event during the period was the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry, of which the Chairman was the Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, to examine and report upon the organization of the cotton industry in Montserrat, including the means and methods of production, profits and their distribution, wages and conditions of work, the disposal of by-products, the ownership of land and the system of metayage. The inquiry was held in mid-1953 though the report of the Commission was not published until late in 1954. The recommendations of the Commission which dealt with the appointment of a Development Commissioner, land utilization policy, agricultural staff, purchase of cotton by the Government, agricultural credit, a change in the date of the cotton planting season, soil conservation and other allied matters were under consideration at the close of the period.

Considerable strides were made in peasant development in Antigua. The acquisition by the Government of the tenantry areas of the Antigua Syndicate Estates Limited was recommended by a Board of Inquiry into the sugar industry towards the end of 1951. This acquisition formed an integral part of a land settlement reorganization plan for the island as a whole. About 3,000 acres of land, occupied by about 1,000 tenants, were involved. In mid-1953, approval was given for the acquisition of these lands, the acquisition and development being financed by a loan of £34,083 and a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £15,000. As a result of this, nearly 600 acres of unused arable land should be brought under cultivation, the consolidation of scattered holdings



should facilitate mechanical cultivation, and long term economic benefits should derive from improved labour relations. In addition, two other areas of land, at Five Islands and Claremont, were purchased with Colonial Development and Welfare funds for peasant development during the period under review, and an agreement for the utilization of lands at the United States Base was concluded, which will also increase peasant development.

In 1953, as part of its policy of extending peasant development by ensuring better management and more extensive and intensive use of the land by peasants, the Agricultural Department in Antigua was radically reorganized. Peasant settlements, marketing, agricultural credit, and the mechanical cultivation and haulage unit for peasant agriculture were consolidated under a Peasant Development Division of the Department. The results are promising.

In the field of livestock development, the Government of Antigua received a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £17,500 in 1954 for the purpose of developing the livestock industry amongst peasant farmers; the Government of Montserrat received a grant in 1954 from the same source of £4,950 to provide for the purchase of pedigree stock, the implementation of parasite control measures, a scheme for subsidized and loan sires, and the continuance of departmental livestock units; and the Government of the Virgin Islands received a supplementary grant from the same source in connexion with its agricultural credit scheme for pasture improvement.

Some progress was also achieved with the development of fisheries. A Fisheries Officer was appointed in Antigua early in 1953, under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, and a further grant of £2,465 was made from the same source for experimental and developmental work, including the catching of flying fish, the improvement of fishing methods and marketing, and the provision of ice-boxes for fishermen. A further supplementary grant of £650 was made later in 1954. Experimental fisheries work was also undertaken in Montserrat in 1954.

### *Housing and Rural Betterment*

Very marked progress was made in housing. By the close of 1954 in Antigua, the position under the housing programme, instituted after the two hurricanes of 1950, was that 1,130 houses had been completed under the "self-help" scheme, 122 houses had been built by the Central Housing and Planning Authority, 15 "aided self-help" houses had been completed and 81 "aided self-help" houses were in course of completion. Four new "aided self-help" groups began work in 1954. The slum clearance scheme in St. John's commenced early in 1953. By the close of 1954, 151 families had been resettled on adjacent lands, 86 in new houses of concrete block construction, and 65 in wooden houses moved from the slum area and repaired before occupation. In the slum area itself, 123 houses were realigned and repairs to 68 had been effected by the close of 1954. By December, 1954, the construction programme of the Labour Welfare Fund Committee had reached a total

of 112 houses, and 458 persons had obtained loans totalling \$154,444 for building and repairs. The Central Planning and Housing Authority obtained land for further extensions in eight more villages and development began in four. In August, 1954, 65 acres of land were purchased on the outskirts of St. John's for town extension.

In St. Kitts, the village of Sadlers was redeveloped and expanded; in three years the number of houses was increased from 140 to 206 and roads, drains and improved water supplies installed. A new village of 102 building lots was developed at Molyneux and a similar village of 67 building lots at Lodge. At both villages, oiled roads, piped water supplies and other services were installed. The New Town Slum Clearance Scheme in Basseterre was almost completed by the close of 1954: about 100 houses were removed from the slum area and 40 new dwelling units in the form of two-storey flatlets were erected. In addition to the foregoing, 536 loans for repairs to houses had been made by the Central Housing Authority by the close of 1954.

In Montserrat, an "aided self-help" housing scheme was commenced early in 1954 with funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The object is to provide 180 two-room concrete block houses but progress was slow.

Closely connected with the housing development programme in Antigua is what has come to be known as the Homes, Families and Gardens Festival. This festival, which was inaugurated in 1951, and usually lasts a fortnight, has now become a regular annual feature of Antiguan life. The broad purpose of the Festival, as indicated by its title, is to promote rural betterment in all its aspects and to foster a spirit of community pride and development. Throughout the duration of the Festival, which goes from strength to strength each year, talks are given throughout all the villages on public health, home planning, housing improvements, nutrition, juvenile delinquency, praedial larceny, illegitimacy and a host of allied topics falling under the broad heading of social welfare. Among the many encouraging features of the Festival is the fact that it has led in the villages to the development of leadership, the promotion of a spirit of self-help amongst individuals, and a spirit of co-operation in each village. These factors should lead to the development of local government based on the wishes of the people, and also to the development of improved human relations between all sections of the community, bringing in its train economic and social advancement, as well as a will to progress. Arbour Day is also celebrated annually during the Festival.

### *Public Works*

Considerable strides were made in the school building programmes. In Antigua, a large new mixed school was built in St. John's with Colonial Development and Welfare funds. It is a post-primary school and the only one of its kind in the Presidency. In Barbuda, the Government took over the primary school from the Anglican Church and enlarged it, also with assistance from Colonial Development and

Welfare funds. In St. Kitts, the building of a new Education Centre was commenced in Basseterre late in 1954, a grant of £27,500 having been obtained under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for this purpose. In Nevis, a new Senior and Infants' School was built at Gingerland. This school, with 400 places, is the largest in the Presidency and the cost was almost wholly met from funds provided by Her Majesty's Government in consequence of the destruction of the former school by the earthquakes of 1950-51. In Anguilla, a new Senior-Secondary school was built with a grant of £9,420 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In Montserrat, the new Senior-Secondary school at Plymouth, for which a grant of £13,600 had been obtained under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act in 1952, was completed, and additional grants from the same source totalling £8,600 for expansion and improvements were made in 1954.

In June, 1954, a further Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £15,680 was approved for the extension and modernization of the Holberton Hospital in Antigua. Work on the complete reconstruction of the Alexandra Hospital in Nevis, which suffered very severe damage in the earthquakes of 1950-51, was almost finished by the close of 1954. Funds for the reconstruction were provided by Her Majesty's Government and, when it is completed, this will be one of the finest small hospitals in the Caribbean area.

The two most noteworthy public works projects, apart from those already mentioned, were the new Police headquarters in Basseterre, St. Kitts, work on which was not quite completed by the close of 1954, and which is the largest building in the Colony; and the erection of a new pier 448 feet in length at the port of Basseterre. In addition, the pier leading to the Treasury building in Basseterre was completely reconstructed. In the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £14,000 enabled a main road to be built between Road Town, the capital, and East End, which will open up a lot of country, and a further grant of £5,000 from the same source was obtained for expenditure on country roads.

### *Public Utilities*

In Antigua a good deal was done to improve water supplies and thus ameliorate the effects of the drought. A catchment reservoir of 8½ million gallons was provided, and three wells were drilled providing an additional 220,000 gallons of water per day to St. John's. Six further wells, with an estimated output of 210,000 gallons per day, were drilled and cased and at the close of 1954 were awaiting the arrival of pumping equipment. Approval was received in 1954 for the raising of a loan of £45,000 for the complete reorganization of the telephone service, which was installed in the 19th century, and considerable quantities of equipment had been received by the close of 1954. Insofar as electricity was concerned, the A.C. system at Coolidge Field, which is eventually to be extended to cover the whole island, was extended to St. John's and it was expected to be possible to close down the D.C. system in the city early in 1955.

In Montserrat, a scheme for a 12-hour electricity supply service to Plymouth was approved late in 1954, and, by the close of that year, considerable progress had been made with the erection of the power station. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £13,000 will cover the major part of the cost.

In the Virgin Islands, some progress was made with water supply schemes, financed by funds under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and in 1954 detailed estimates were being prepared for the expansion of the electricity supply service for Road Town.

There were two developments in communications, though one unfortunately was short-lived. In Montserrat, with the aid of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £2,900, a private aircraft landing strip was improved and certain fire-fighting and other facilities provided. Early in 1954, an American company commenced a weekly non-scheduled air service between Antigua and Montserrat. This operated successfully for several months until in May, 1954, a Cessna aircraft of the company crashed on "take-off" and the service was suspended indefinitely. At the close of 1954, investigations were under way to locate a new site for an airstrip.

In mid-1953, a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £3,000 was made to the Virgin Islands for the installation of a radiotelephony network throughout the islands of the Presidency and for a radio-telephony link with the American island of St. Thomas so as to provide radio-communications with the outside world. Unfortunately, owing to technical difficulties, little progress had been made with the scheme by the close of 1954.

### *Preserving English Harbour*

The Society of the Friends of English Harbour, which was established in 1951 with the objects of restoring and preserving "Nelson's Dockyard" in English Harbour, Antigua, and of improving its facilities for visiting yachts, achieved substantial progress towards the attainment of its aims during 1953 and 1954. An Appeal Committee was set up in the United Kingdom in 1952 and contributions from that source during the years under review amounted to nearly £3,500. Early in 1954, Lady Churchill and His Grace the Archbishop of York consented to serve as Patrons to the Appeal Fund. Contributions were received from Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Winston Churchill. In the four years of its existence the Society has collected a sum of £9,160 towards the target figure of £50,000 required for the complete restoration of the Dockyard. Extensive repairs to the Dockyard were undertaken during the years under review and it is becoming increasingly a centre for yachts from many parts of the world. Particular mention should be made of the assistance rendered by parties from Her Majesty's ships in effecting repairs.

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

THE following table sets out the actual population of the Colony in 1946, the year in which the last census was taken, and the estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1953, and 1954:—

	1946	1953	1954
Antigua . . . . .	41,757	49,692	50,908
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	46,243	52,057	53,598
Montserrat . . . . .	14,333	13,685	14,145
Virgin Islands . . . . .	6,505	7,450	7,600
Total . . . . .	108,838	122,884	126,251

The estimated populations of the British Virgin Islands at the close of 1953 and 1954 are only rough estimates, owing to the peculiar mobility of the population between the British and American Virgin Islands.

Vital Statistics are given in Chapter 7.

### Chapter 2:

### Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

#### ANTIGUA

#### *Employment*

During 1953 and 1954, of an estimated total of 8,000 wage-employed persons in the island, the sugar industry provided employment for an average of about 3,903 per week in 1953 and about 3,457 in 1954. The numbers employed were higher during the harvesting season than the out-of-crop period, being 4,047 as against 3,585 in 1953, and 3,509 as against 3,303 in 1954. The decrease in the average numbers employed weekly in 1954 as compared with 1953 was due to a smaller crop; (31,588 tons of sugar were produced in 1953, compared with 12,601 in 1954, owing to a prolonged drought).

The proportion of male to female labour in 1953 was in the ratio 7:3 during harvesting. During 1953, about 18 per cent of the total employed in the industry were factory workers (practically all males) and 82 per cent field workers; in 1954, about 17 per cent of the total employed in the industry were factory workers (practically all males) and 83 per cent field workers.

The average numbers of wage earners employed during 1953 and 1954 in other industries were as follows:

	1953			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Building (private, small contractors excluded)	80	—	80	142	—	142
Waterfront ... ..	332	—	332	333	—	333
Public Works, Utilities and Municipal ...	540	137	677	857	197	1,054
Distributive trades, hotels and minor industries	490	327	817	496	340	836
	1,442	464	1,906	1,828	537	2,365

No figures are available to show the degree of unemployment since a survey conducted in Antigua in July, 1950, by the Director of the Labour Relations Institute of the University of Puerto Rico in collaboration with the University College of the West Indies was completed, but it is estimated that there has been no appreciable change since that time. The main causes of unemployment in Antigua according to the survey were:

- (a) the inability to absorb a higher percentage of the labour force owing to the present stage of economic development of the island;
- (b) the maintenance of reservations by the unemployed with respect to the occupations they would accept, as shown, for example, by their reluctance to accept work in the cane fields; and
- (c) the internal migration from rural areas to the vicinity of the city of St. John's.

The Committee which was appointed in 1950 "to consider and advise Government on the problem of unemployment in Antigua" submitted its report to Government in 1952 and the following action has been taken on certain of its recommendations which dealt with the opening up of new avenues of employment:

- (i) an Industrial Development Board has been established;
- (ii) a Peasant Development Department, which provides credit, and cultivation and haulage services for peasants, has been established;
- (iii) steps are being taken to improve the tomato and pineapple industries;
- (iv) an embryo pottery industry has been established;
- (v) handicrafts are being taught in the schools and handicraft centres have been established. A young woman has been given a course in housecraft training in Jamaica; and
- (vi) a Fisheries Officer has been appointed to supervise a scheme for the development of fisheries on sound lines.

There are no free public or private employment agencies established in Antigua, but the Government has approved the establishment, under the control of the Labour Department, of an experimental employment exchange for Government work only in the first instance, and this will be brought into operation when circumstances permit.

In general, opportunities for employment in Antigua are restricted and are inadequate for the rapidly increasing population. In the circumstances, Government participates in the recruitment of workers for employment in agriculture in the United States and in St. Croix, American Virgin Islands. At the end of 1953 there were 280 workers from the Presidency in the United States and at the end of 1954 there were 269. Recruiting of workers for the United States is supervised by the Labour Commissioner who attests each contract of which the worker receives a copy. The terms of the contract are determined by the Regional Labour Board which is composed of representatives from all British West Indian Governments. In the United States, the welfare and employment of these workers are watched over by the British West Indies Central Labour Organisation in Washington, which has a Chief Liaison Officer and regional Liaison Officers, acting as agents for the British West Indian Governments.

In February, 1953, the island benefited by the recruitment of 300 workers for employment with the Virgin Islands Corporation in St. Croix, for a period of six months. The majority worked well and some of them had their six months' contract extended for a further two months. In 1954, the Corporation again recruited 213 workers from Antigua for employment in St. Croix. These men also worked well and it is expected that this scheme will continue for some time provided that the workers recruited continue to give satisfaction. Recruitment of workers for St. Croix is also supervised by the Labour Commissioner, and their employment and welfare are watched over by a Government officer who is seconded, as a Liaison Officer, to the Corporation. Under the work agreement between the employer and the worker 15 per cent of the workers' savings are remitted to the Presidency to pay allotments to dependants and for payment to the workers themselves on their repatriation. The total receipts during the years 1953 and 1954 from the United States amounted to \$128,152.32 (B.W.I.) and \$127,356.77 (B.W.I.) respectively and the receipts from St. Croix during the same period amounted to \$27,593.15 (B.W.I.) and \$21,556.28 (B.W.I.) respectively.

From the survey conducted in July, 1950, and also from figures submitted by sugar estates during 1953 and 1954, it has been determined that a great majority of workers on the estates do not work throughout the week. In most cases, however, workers are gainfully occupied on their own plots during the days that they are not employed on estates. The average number of days worked per week by field workers in the sugar industry during 1954 varied from 2.2 (for certain female piece workers) to 5.2 (for female packers) during harvesting and from 2.1 (female piece workers) to 4.7 (cartmen) during the out-of-crop season.

There was no movement of workers into the island for employment except for a comparatively small number of female workers who come over from the neighbouring island of Montserrat for the cotton harvest and for employment as domestic servants, and for a few males, mainly tradesmen, seeking opportunities for employment.

### *Wages and Conditions of Employment*

Wage rates of workers in the sugar industry and on the waterfront were increased in 1953 by 10 per cent over 1952, while non-established workers in Government Departments received an increase of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent over the 1952 rates. There were no increases in wage rates during 1954.

Rates of wages paid and average earnings during 1954 were as follows:

	<i>Rate per day</i>	
	\$	¢
<b>Time workers—</b>		
Male . . . . .	1	75
Female . . . . .	0	95

#### *Factory*

Machinists . . . . .	2	84	—	4	25
Fitters . . . . .	2	44	—	3	66
Blacksmiths . . . . .	2	93	—	3	49
Carpenters . . . . .	2	72	—	3	40
Painters . . . . .	2	40	—	2	84
Welders . . . . .	3	40	—	3	68
Motor Mechanics . . . . .	2	84	—	3	11
Masons . . . . .	3	16	—	4	53
Electricians . . . . .	2	56	—	4	66
Mill Engine Drivers . . . . .	2	64	—	2	84
Firemen . . . . .	3	11			
<b>Unskilled—</b>					
Males . . . . .	2	28			
Females and boys . . . . .	1	31			

#### *Government (non-establishment)*

##### *Unskilled Labour*

	<i>Per day of 8 hrs.</i>	
	\$	¢
<b>Females and boys—</b>		
Grade B . . . . .	1	20
Grade A . . . . .	1	38
<b>Males—</b>		
Grade B . . . . .	1	80
Grade A . . . . .	1	98

##### *Semi-skilled Labour*

Grade B . . . . .	2	32
Grade A . . . . .	2	76



*Skilled Labour*

	<i>Per day of 8 hrs.</i>			
	\$	¢	\$	¢
Operators of self-propelled vehicles . . . . .	2	84		
Grade B . . . . .	3	36		
Grade A . . . . .	3	87		
Apprentices . . . . .	0	18	2	76

*Night soil workers*

Scavengers—				
Males—				
Grade B . . . . .	1	80		
Grade A . . . . .	1	98		
Females—				
Grade B . . . . .	1	20		
Grade A . . . . .	1	38		
Washers . . . . .	2	58		
Lifters . . . . .	2	77		
Pit diggers . . . . .	2	06		
Substandard workers . . . . .	1	20		

*Motor transport (passenger)*

	<i>Per week</i>			
	\$	¢	\$	¢
Drivers . . . . .	12	00	15	00
Conductors . . . . .	7	00	11	00

*Distilling*

	<i>Per week</i>			
	\$	¢		
Mechanics . . . . .	24	75		
Truck Driver . . . . .	17	05		
	<i>Per day</i>			
	\$	¢		
Firemen . . . . .	2	27		
Unskilled labour (male) . . . . .	1	94		

*Cotton*

	<i>Per lb.</i>			
	\$	¢		
Picking . . . . .	0	04		
Cleaning . . . . .	0	02		

*Waterfront*

	<i>Cents per hour</i>		
	<i>General</i>		
Stevedores—	<i>Sugar</i>	<i>cargo</i>	<i>Coals</i>
Hold, coopers . . . . .	51	80	76
Winchmen, gangwaymen . . . . .	59	93	88
Tally clerk . . . . .	82	96	90
Leaders . . . . .	76	120	114

*Sugar—1954*

<i>Field</i>	<i>Earnings per day</i>	
	<i>In Crop</i>	<i>Out of Crop</i>
	\$	\$
Cutters (male) . . . . .	2.71	
Packers—		
Male . . . . .	2.20	
Female . . . . .	1.68	
Loaders (male) . . . . .	3.69	
Cartmen . . . . .	3.07	
	<i>In Crop</i>	<i>Out of Crop</i>
	\$	\$
Piece workers—		
Male . . . . .	2.01	2.29
Female . . . . .	1.95	1.30

The normal hours of work for the majority of daily paid workers in the principal industries and services are as follows:

<i>Industry or service</i>	<i>Normal hours</i>
Sugar Industry—	
Unskilled labour . . . . .	8 per day; 44 per week.
Factory and Workshop . . . . .	Shift workers, 8 per day and 48 per week. Non-shift workers, 8 per day and 44 per week.
Waterfront . . . . .	8 per day; 44 per week.
Government Departments . . . . .	8 per day; 44 per week.
Building . . . . .	8 per day; 44 per week.

A weekly half-holiday without loss of pay is given to workers in Government Departments and to those in the sugar industry who work a 44-hour week. Government non-established employees are given public holidays with pay and are also granted one week's holiday with pay provided they complete 240 working days in a year.

Weekly paid workers in the sugar industry receive six days' holiday with pay provided that they have worked throughout the whole of the crop and have given satisfactory service. This holiday is normally arranged at the termination of the crop.

Field workers (other than those paid on a weekly basis) who are engaged in reaping the sugar crop and have been employed for a minimum of 20 weeks throughout the crop receive one week's holiday with pay. Other field workers on an estate payroll who have completed 36 weeks' work in any year starting from 1st January are given a week's holiday with pay calculated on the average weekly basic earnings over the 36 weeks.

With the exception of essential services such as night soil disposal and electricity supply, night work is still almost wholly confined to sugar factories where only male adult labour is affected. A very small number of workers in the baking industry are also employed during the night.

*Cost of living*

The following figures indicate the movements in the cost of living index:

	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
1953 . . .	301·56	303·39	303·8	305·91
1954 . . .	301·62	303·00	300·7	288·20

Changes in the prices of the principal articles of foodstuffs during 1953 and 1954 are indicated by the following:—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price in B.W.I. Currency</i>			
		<i>June, 1953</i>	<i>December, 1953</i>	<i>June, 1954</i>	<i>December, 1954</i>
Rice . . . . .	lb.	14·5	14·5	14·5	14·5
Meal . . . . .	lb.	15	15	15	15
Flour . . . . .	lb.	12	12	12	12
Onions . . . . .	lb.	24	22·6	22·6	22·6
Ground provisions . . . . .	lb.	14·25	15	12·5	9
Fresh Fish . . . . .	lb.	19	22	22	22
Grey Sugar . . . . .	lb.	9	9	9	9
Butter Substitute . . . . .	lb.	72	72	72	65
Salt Fish . . . . .	lb.	44	44	38·6	38·6

*Industrial relations*

The Antigua Trades & Labour Union and the Antigua Employers' Federation continued to be the only organisations representing workers and employers respectively in the Presidency. Wages in the main industries were fixed by collective bargaining.

In the early part of 1953 there was a four-day stoppage of work at the Antigua Sugar Factory but there were no other serious differences during the remainder of 1953 and 1954. A large number of complaints was made to the Department and in nearly all cases were amicably resolved.

There was a marked improvement in the relationship between employers' and workers' representatives during the years under review. Both sides showed willingness to co-operate, with the result that all disputes were settled satisfactorily and there was no serious stoppage of work.

There was a reduction in the price of cotton in 1953, but, as a result of discussions between the employers' and workers' organisations, the employers agreed to absorb the first shock of the reduction and to maintain the same wage rates as were paid in 1952. In 1954 there was a small increase in the price but, after discussions between the parties, the existing rates for picking and cleaning cotton were maintained. It was also agreed that there would be no increase in these rates when MSI cotton was purchased at a price ranging from 80¢ to \$1·10 per lb. of lint.

In three Government Departments—Public Works, Municipal, and Agriculture—work committees were established to discuss matters which might give rise to disputes. These committees have been functioning satisfactorily, and have saved considerable time by “on the spot” settlement of disputes.

*Safety, health and welfare*

In 1953 the two sugar factories reported 42 accidents which resulted in loss of time. Returns submitted to the Department show that compensation paid by employers during 1953 was as follows:

<i>Employers</i>	<i>No. of Claims 1953</i>	<i>Amount of Compensation</i>	
		<i>\$</i>	<i>¢</i>
Antigua Sugar Factory . . . . .	72	806	37
Antigua Syndicate Estates (sugar)	182	2,159	96
Yeptons Estate (agriculture) . . . . .	2	21	43
Belmont Dairy . . . . .	2	10	26
Government Departments . . . . .	72	998	98
General Merchants Shipping . . . . .	29	463	37
Antigua Distillery . . . . .	6	98	60
	<hr/> 365	<hr/> \$4,558	<hr/> 97

The Antigua Sugar Factory maintains a clinic which is equipped with an examination table, oxygen, instruments and sterilizers for normal medical treatment and minor surgical operations, and which is staffed by a full-time qualified dispenser and visited twice a week by a medical officer who is available on call at any time. In 1953, 538 cases, 127 of which were occupational, were seen by the medical officer, and during 1954, 494 cases, 84 of which were occupational, received medical attention. In addition, workers are given regular Kahn tests and inoculation against typhoid every two years.

The Antigua Sugar Factory Limited is a subscribing member of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Through the courtesy of this Society, literature describing industrial risks and the latest preventive measures, is distributed to the employees of the Antigua Sugar Factory Limited and a safety committee, comprising representatives of employers and employees, gives internal publicity to the contents of the Society's literature, posters, etc., in order that every employee may become “safety conscious”. In addition, regular meetings of this safety committee are held to discuss suspected hazards.

On sugar estates first-aid kits are provided in the fields, in addition to the kits which have always been kept at houses of managers.

A number of employees of the Antigua Sugar Factory are permanently employed in mosquito control work and all factory premises are regularly sprayed with insecticide.

The Antigua Sugar Factory Limited maintains a playing field for its employees and a team composed of factory employees participates in local games. A club house provided by the factory is also used for indoor games.

Under the control of a workers' committee a canteen with modern cooking equipment has been established at the Antigua Sugar Factory and hot meals are served at reasonable prices. This facility is used by most employees and is particularly appreciated by those working irregular hours.

During 1954 representatives of the Antigua Sugar Factory Limited and representatives of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union signed an agreement providing for the payment of a pension to retired employees of the factory. This non-contributory pension scheme, due to become effective as from the 1st January, 1955, will replace the old retirement bonus scheme which has been in operation for the past forty years.

### *Labour legislation*

The Factories Act, No. 2 of 1953, repeals the Factories Act, No. 4 of 1948, and a Committee was appointed to consider the model factories Ordinance and Regulations prepared by the Colonial Office and to recommend such amendments thereto as may be necessary to make it suitable for application to the Presidency.

The General Legislative Council passed the Apprentices (Repeal) Act, No. 8 of 1953, repealing the Apprentices Act of 1882, which contained certain penal sanctions.

There were no prosecutions under the various labour laws during, 1953 and 1954.

### *Industrial training*

A draft Industrial Training Bill providing for the "registration training and certification of apprentices and for the testing and certification of artisans" was considered during the period under review. In the first instance, a Committee composed of the Labour Commissioner as Chairman, two persons nominated by the Antigua Trades & Labour Union and two persons nominated by the Antigua Employers' Federation, is to be set up to institute, on a voluntary basis, a system of apprenticeship for training on the job and of technical training by evening classes for certain types of apprentices. An Industrial Training Committee was set up in 1954, and syllabuses of training in the building, electrical and printing trades and a form of indenture were approved. In September, 1954, 42 apprentices from the Public Works Department were indentured. Employers and other persons interested in the training of apprentices were invited to be present at the signing of these first indentures, and opportunity was taken by the Chairman and members of the Industrial Training Committee to emphasize the need for the co-operation of all concerned in the task of improving the standard of skill of craftsmen in Antigua. Later in 1954, four more apprentices in the carpentry and cabinet-making trade were indentured.

LEEWARD ISLANDS  
ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

*Employment*

The numbers employed in the principal industries in 1953 and 1954 were:

Year	Month	Sugar estates			Sugar factory		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1953	June	3,861	2,775	6,636	890	12	902
	Dec.	1,794	1,714	3,508	701	7	708
1954	June	3,955	2,727	6,682	932	14	946
	Dec.	2,077	1,853	3,930	720	7	727

Year	Month	Government Departments			Cotton ginnery			Water-front Male
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1953	June	422	48	470	14	2	16	265
	Dec.	595	49	644	15	4	19	221
1954	June	644	54	698	16	2	18	268
	Dec.	762	41	803	19	12	31	228

The period of greatest unemployment coincides with the "out of crop" season in the sugar industry in St. Kitts. The position is not so readily assessable in Nevis and Anguilla where there is a low proportion of persons entirely dependent upon a weekly wage, and where the problem is more affected by that of under-employment.

There is no migrant labour employed in the Presidency.

There were 185 workers in the United States engaged in agricultural work. All recruitment is handled by the Department of Labour on behalf of the Regional Labour Board which controls the scheme. The Regional Labour Board is composed of Government delegates of all participating countries. Government control is exercised through the Board which maintains representatives in the United States together with a liaison staff.

*Wages and Conditions of Employment*

Average wages are as shown under:

Estate Male Labourers:

per day \$1.28

*Average Weekly Wage*

	\$	¢
Cutters . . . . .	15	09
Handers . . . . .	11	64
Packers . . . . .	13	65
Tractor Drivers . . . . .	20	43
Truck Drivers . . . . .	19	28

**Estate Female Labourers:**

per day 86¢  
 farming (weeding) cotton per acre, \$1·09–\$1·28  
 picking cotton per lb., 3¢ per lb.  
 cleaning cotton, \$1·09 per 100 lbs.  
 pulling cotton per acre, \$1·19–\$1·34  
 heaping „ „ „ 36¢  
 burning „ „ „ 24¢  
 cleaning up field, \$3·04 per acre

**Ginnery Male Labourers:**

per day, \$1·32

**Ginnery Female Labourers:**

per day, 84¢

**Wage rates in other occupations were:****Artisans:**

per day, various rates, average perhaps about \$3·52

**Road Maintenance, Male Labourers:**

per day, \$2·00

**Road Maintenance, Female Labourers:**

per day, \$1·20

**Commercial Store Clerks, Male:**

per week, \$8·00 to \$18·00

**Commercial Store Clerks, Female:**

per week, \$6·00 to \$10·00

**Domestic Servants, Female:**

per week, \$2·16 to \$4·00

The accepted rate for overtime is time and a half normal rates. Bonuses are paid by all industries. Government non-established workers now receive a bonus payment in December amounting to 2 per cent of their annual wages. Double time is paid for work performed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The working week remains generally at between 40 and 48 hours.

All workers are entitled to an annual holiday with pay. On the estates the qualifying period is 36 weeks for regular workers; seasonal workers (i.e. who work during the crop season only) also receive a holiday with pay reduced proportionately to the period of continuous employment. Government non-established workers are entitled to seven days holiday with pay after completing 240 days; workers whose annual earning period is between 120 and 240 days are entitled to a holiday with pay reduced proportionately.

There is no night work by women in any of the industrial undertakings.

*Cost of Living*

Index figures for 1953 and 1954 (1939 = 100).

	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
1953 . . .	278·00	278·24	282·00	279·00
1954 . . .	276·00	276·00	275·00	275·00

*Prices of foodstuffs*

	<i>1953 June</i>	<i>1953 December</i>	<i>1954 June</i>	<i>1954 December</i>
	\$ ¢	\$ ¢	\$ ¢	\$ ¢
Rice—lb. . . . .	0·14	0·14	0·14	0·14
Cornmeal—lb. . . . .	0·14	0·14	0·14	0·14
Flour—lb. . . . .	0·12	0·12	0·12	0·11
Cooking oil—qt. . . . .	0·72	0·72	0·72	0·72
Margarine—lb. . . . .	0·61	0·63	0·60	0·58
Salt pork—lb. . . . .	0·64	0·64	0·64	0·64
Salt fish—lb. . . . .	0·48	0·43	0·43	0·43
Fresh fish—lb. . . . .	0·18	0·18	0·18	0·18
Fresh meat—lb. . . . .	0·36	0·36	0·36	0·36
Dried peas—lb. . . . .	0·24	0·26	0·24	0·24
Milk, fresh—qt. . . . .	0·10	0·10	0·10	0·10
Onions—lb. . . . .	0·28	0·24	0·24	0·24
Ground provisions—lb. . . . .	0·08	0·08	0·08	0·08
Sugar, grey crystals—lb. . . . .	0·08	0·08	0·08	0·08
Cocoa—lb. . . . .	0·84	0·84	0·80	0·80

*Labour Department*

The Labour Department is situated centrally in the town of Basseterre, and is of easy access to members of the public. Its aims and duties are as follows:—

- (a) advice to Government on labour matters generally;
- (b) the encouragement of collective bargaining and where necessary the institution of statutory wage fixing machinery;
- (c) the study of existing labour organisations and unions and advice on principles of organisation and collective bargaining;
- (d) the improvement of industrial relations by maintaining constant contact with employers and workers and providing all possible help in conciliating the parties to trade disputes;
- (e) the introduction of regular and systematic inspection of all work places with a view to establishing healthy and decent conditions and reducing accidents to a minimum;
- (f) the protection of women and juvenile workers;
- (g) ensuring the due observance of certain labour laws;
- (h) periodical review of labour laws in relation to international labour conventions;
- (i) the introduction and supervision of workmen's compensation schemes;



- (j) the administering of apprentice and other industrial training; and,
- (k) the collection and publication of statistics on various matters connected with labour.

The Department does not run a labour exchange but, wherever possible, endeavours to provide equivalent facilities as, for instance, in the handling of workers emigrating to the United States under the scheme operated by the Regional Labour Board. The Department also functions as an exchange in connection with the registration and rotation of port workers.

### *Industrial relations*

There are six organisations operating as trade unions. The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union is a general workers' union, registered in 1940, with a membership of about 4,000. It caters for workers of all occupations. It is active and effective and operated on democratic lines. The largest employers' association is the St. Kitts Sugar Producers' Association, which covers the employers' side of the sugar industry. The other associations are small and generally not effective.

Wage fixing continues to be determined annually by negotiation between the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union, and the St. Kitts Sugar Producers' Association, Steamship Agents and Heads of Government Departments. There were no major stoppages in industry during the period reviewed, and all disputes were settled by direct negotiation between both parties, sometimes with the assistance of the Labour Department.

A joint committee composed of representatives of the Sugar Producers' Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades & Labour Union operated successfully in the suppression of cane fires.

The Factories Act, No. 2 of 1953, repealed the Factories Act, No. 4 of 1948, and during 1954 consideration was given to the preparation of factory legislation suitable to the circumstances prevailing in the Presidency. The General Legislative Council also passed the Apprentices (Repeal) Act, No. 8 of 1953, repealing the Apprentices Act of 1882, which contained certain penal sanctions.

### *Safety, Health and Welfare*

In 1953, 20 accidents occurred at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, claims paid amounting to \$1,351.92. In other branches of employment there were 44 claims for accidents by Government non-established workers, claims paid amounting to \$494.38; 150 claims by agricultural workers (including two fatal), claims paid amounting to \$3,646.32; and 13 claims by waterfront workers, claims paid amounting to \$1,090.68. Accidents were mainly caused by the operation of hand tools.

In 1954 the accident claims amounted to \$290.50 for the factory, \$839.65 for Government Departments and \$5,455.89 on the agricultural estates.

*Industrial Training*

A system of indenture and controlled instruction was started on a voluntary basis in 1951, operated by a Craftsmen's Selection Board composed of representatives of the Master Craftsmen Guild, Trades and Labour Union and Heads of Government Departments, under the Chairmanship of the Labour Commissioner.

With the assistance of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant a training centre is being built by the voluntary effort of tradesmen and apprentices.

Apprentices were being trained in the following trades in 1953 and 1954: carpentry, joinery, masonry, electricity, welding, motor mechanics, electrical fitting and machining, printing and tailoring.

## MONTserrat

*Employment*

Available statistics were not adequate for drawing reliable conclusions on the distribution of workers in the principal occupation groups which remain as stated in the 1946 census report—agriculture, repair and maintenance, construction, professional and public service, trade and finance, and fishing. The cotton industry continued to be the foremost employer of labour but the period under review was among the worst in many years for lint production, the crop having been adversely affected by weather. It must be recognised, however, that cotton cultivation offers an inadequate volume of employment opportunities even to a small population and particularly to male workers. Tomatoes, ground provision and vegetable production absorbed a certain number of peasants and labourers during the cotton "off-crop" periods.

Some 32 persons left the island for the United Kingdom during 1953 and 600 during 1954 in search of work. During 1953, 12 workers were recruited for farm labour in the United States and 40 for reaping the sugar cane crop in St. Croix, American Virgin Islands. In 1954, 17 workers were also recruited for agricultural work in the United States.

*Wages and conditions of employment*

Agriculture remains the chief occupation for the gainfully employed. The task and piece work system as well as the daily wage system continued to be the basis for cultivation operations. Ginning operations, public works (including road maintenance), and trade work, are paid for on the daily wage rate system, while domestic servants and the majority of commercial clerks are paid on a weekly basis. The normal working day for all types of weekly paid workers is an 8-hour one. Labourers are paid at the rate of a day-and-a-half if they have to work on public holidays. The principal commercial houses grant their employees two weeks holiday a year with pay. There is no paid holiday scheme for the labouring classes. Night work is a very rare occurrence for any category of worker.

At the beginning of 1953 the prevailing wage rates for estate labourers were:

	\$	¢	\$	¢
Men, per day or task . . . . .	0.90	to	1.00	
Women, per day or task . . . . .	0.60	to	0.66	
Farming, per acre . . . . .	2.40	to	2.64	
Picking cotton, per lb. . . . .			2½¢	

For the 1953-54 cotton crop an agreement was reached between employers and the Trade and Labour Union and the wage rates were fixed as follows:

	\$	¢
Men, per day or task . . . . .	1.00	
Women, per day or task . . . . .	0.66	
Farming, per acre . . . . .	2.64	
Picking cotton, per lb. . . . .	0.2½	

with the following other conditions (a) an incentive bonus to be paid to "farmers" only, this bonus to be equal to \$5.00 for each bale of clean lint produced from estate cultivation; (b) ginnery workers to be paid at the rate of time-and-a-half for any time worked in excess of 8 hours a day.

The following table gives the daily wage rates of labourers in various Government Departments as they existed at the close of 1952, and the increase which was paid in December, 1954, with retroactive effect from 1st November, 1953:

#### *Public Works Department*

	1952	1953-54
	\$ ¢	\$ ¢
(i) Labourers on buildings—		
Males . . . . .	1.00	1.20
Females . . . . .	0.60	0.90
(ii) Labourers on roads—		
Males . . . . .	0.90	1.02
Females . . . . .	0.60	0.68

#### *Agricultural Department*

Males . . . . .	0.96	1.02
Females . . . . .	0.64	0.72

#### *Medical Department*

Males . . . . .	0.90	1.02
Females . . . . .	0.90	1.02

Wages of artisans, commercial store clerks and domestic servants remained the same as they were in 1952:

	\$	¢	\$	¢
Artisans, men per day . . . . .	3.00	(average)		
Store Clerks, male per week . . . . .	6.00	to	12.00	
Store Clerks, female per week . . . . .	5.00	to	10.00	
Domestic servants, per week . . . . .	2.50	to	5.00	

*Cost of Living*

Cost of living indices are not available but the cost of living showed an upward trend in comparison with 1952. Certain lines of textiles registered decreases but the retail prices of most items of food and groceries showed increases. The retail prices of the principal items of food over the period were:

<i>Articles</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
	<i>31st</i>	<i>31st</i>	<i>31st</i>
	<i>December</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>December</i>
	\$   ¢	\$   ¢	\$   ¢
Table Butter (per lb. tin)	1.42	1.36	1.36
Cooking Butter (per lb.)	0.63	0.63	0.60
Cheese (per lb.) . . .	0.88	1.00	1.00
Eggs (each) . . . . .	0.06	0.07-0.08	0.07-0.08
Fish (per lb.):			
Herring . . . . .	0.26	0.20	0.20
Mackerel . . . . .	0.36	0.38	0.42
Cornmeal (per lb.) . . .	0.16	0.14	0.14
Flour (per lb.) . . . . .	0.12	0.12	0.12
Lard Compound (per lb.)	0.60	0.60	0.60
Fresh Meats (per lb.):			
Beef, all cuts . . . .	0.24	0.24	0.24
Goat Meat . . . . .	0.22	0.22	0.22
Mutton . . . . .	0.24	0.24	0.24
Pork . . . . .	0.26	0.26	0.26
Meats, smoked or cured			
(per lb.):			
Bacon . . . . .	1.36	1.20	1.20
Hams:			
(Australian) . .	1.42	1.68	1.36
(Dutch) . . . .	1.40	1.68	1.50
Meats, pickled and salted			
(per lb.):			
Pork Snouts . . . .	0.45	0.38	0.51
Fat back . . . . .	0.50	0.60	0.76
Milk, condensed (per 14			
oz. tins):			
Nestles . . . . .	0.47	0.45	0.42
Evaporated . . . .	0.38	0.36	0.36
Milk, fresh (per 26 fluid			
ozs.) . . . . .	0.07	0.07	0.07
Edible cotton seed oil			
(per bottle) . . . . .	0.48	0.48-0.60	0.48-0.60

Articles	1952	1953	1954
	31st	31st	31st
	December	December	December
	\$   ¢	\$   ¢	\$   ¢
Rice (Demerara) (per lb.):			
Super Quality . . .	0·15	0·15	0·15
Second Quality . . .	0·14	0·14	0·14
Sugar (per lb.):			
Barbados . . .	0·13	0·14	0·14
Antigua washed . . .	0·13	0·14	0·14
L. Is. Crystals . . .	0·12	0·12	0·10
Charcoal (per bag) . . .	1·20	1·44	1·44

### *Labour Department*

The Labour Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Labour Commissioner but so far the policy adopted has been to borrow the services of the Labour Commissioner of either St. Kitts or Antigua; the former visited the Presidency during 1954.

### *Industrial relations*

The year 1953 inherited the labour unrest which followed the dispute over wage rates in the cotton industry in the last quarter of 1952. The situation caused the Governor to appoint a Commission to examine and report on the cotton industry of the island. The purpose of the enquiry was succinctly stated by the Commissioners in their report when they stated, *inter alia*, "the more immediate circumstances which led to our appointment included conditions of hostility between cotton workers led by the Trade Union and the estates, culminating in some disorder, in partial withholding of labour, in the formulation of demands for increased wages and in propaganda for certain measures of land reform such as the abolition of the system of share-cropping and requests that Government should purchase estate lands for further development of land settlements or for rental to cultivators". The year 1954 was free from labour disturbances and, with the assistance of the Labour Commissioner of St. Kitts, the Trade Union and employers were able to negotiate a settlement on wage rates for workers in the cotton industry. The Trade Union had an estimated membership of 350 at the end of 1954.

### *Labour legislation*

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954, was passed in 1954. This Ordinance amends the Labour Ordinance, 1950, so that (a) the definition of "employer" is restricted to the term employer only, (b) the definition of "workman" now includes domestic servants, (c) power is given to the Labour Commissioner to question workmen,

(d) reports on accidents should be called for from employers when disability occurs for more than three days and not more than 24 hours as stated in the original Ordinance.

### *Safety, health and welfare*

Estate labourers are provided with free medical treatment under the terms of the Labourers' Medical Attendance Ordinance of 1871. Some estate owners provide houses for their aged workers, who also receive small weekly allowances.

### *Industrial training*

There are no schemes for vocational training or apprenticeship in the trades. Young people desiring to learn a trade attach themselves to a tradesman in the afternoons after school, or for some other portion of the day when they have left school altogether.

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

### *Employment*

The British Virgin Islands is predominantly a community of peasant proprietors and fishermen. There is little employment for wages. Government is in fact the only regular employer (except for domestic servants in and around Road Town), although the employment of skilled and unskilled labour by private individuals is becoming more frequent. There are no labour organisations. Many of the islanders do, however, depend to some extent upon wages, while many more take occasional wage employment in order to supplement their incomes from peasant agriculture and fishing. Both categories seek employment in the American Virgin Islands, particularly St. Thomas. There the women work chiefly as domestic servants, the men mostly at general unskilled labour and as waiters and bar tenders in hotels and restaurants.

The table below, compiled from data contained in the 1946 census report, shows the chief occupations in which persons were gainfully employed, the percentage of the labour force which each occupation absorbed, and the relative distribution of the various forms of employment between the sexes. The importance of agriculture (particularly stock raising) is noteworthy, as is also the comparatively small number of women (and in some cases their complete absence) in occupations such as agriculture and fishing necessitating heavy manual or outdoor work. This pattern is basic, and has undergone no observable change since the 1946 census. It should also be noted that in fact only three of the occupational classifications in the table, viz. public, educational and personal services, represent groups which are mutually exclusive. An islander who describes himself as a builder is not infrequently a farmer and perhaps a fisherman too. Indeed most fishermen are livestock raisers and few builders subsist exclusively by their craft.

*Occupational Groups*

<i>Occupations</i>	<i>Percentages of labour force</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture . . . . .	51.9	0.9	52.8
Fishing . . . . .	9.3	0.0	9.3
Clothing manufacture . . . . .	3.7	5.6	9.3
Charcoal burning . . . . .	2.0	0.0	2.0
Building . . . . .	4.1	0.0	4.1
Transport (water) . . . . .	6.6	0.0	6.6
Commerce . . . . .	1.2	0.6	1.8
Public Service . . . . .	5.8	0.3	6.1
Educational Service . . . . .	0.5	1.7	2.2
Personal Service . . . . .	1.2	4.6	5.8
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It was possible to arrange for the recruitment of labourers to work on contract with the Virgin Islands Corporation as cane cutters in St. Croix for a period of two to three months; 75 men were recruited in 1953 and 85 in 1954. Three labourers also went to Florida as cane cutters in 1953.

*Wages*

The economic relationship between the British Virgin Islands and St. Thomas has been for many years roughly that of country to town, and wages in the British Islands have tended to move in sympathy with those in the American Islands. It is true to say, however, that with increased wages in St. Thomas and the tendency towards urbanization in the British Virgin Islands the wage ratio has been upset.

The following table sets out the wage scales for the chief classes of workers in 1950 and 1954.

**WAGE SCALES, 1950 AND 1954**

<i>Class of Worker</i>	<i>1950 daily wages— 8 hour day</i>		<i>1954 daily wages— 8 hour day</i>	
	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	\$ ¢	\$ ¢	\$ ¢	\$ ¢
<b>Manual</b>				
General unskilled . . . . .	2.06	2.57	2.57	3.09
Semi-skilled . . . . .	2.57	3.43	3.86	4.71
Skilled . . . . .	3.43	6.00	5.14	7.71
<b>Supervisory</b>				
Foreman, semi-skilled . . . . .	3.43	3.43	4.29	4.29
Foreman, skilled . . . . .	6.86	8.57	8.57	10.29
<b>Personal service</b>				
Domestic servants (monthly wages)	17.14	30.86	17.14	34.29

*Legislation*

The Virgin Islands Labour Ordinance, No. 5 of 1950, was amended by Ordinance No. 11 of 1954. It has not yet been found necessary to apply the provisions of the principal Ordinance by appointing a Labour Commissioner to carry out the requirements of the law.

## Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

	1953 \$	1954 \$ (Revised Estimates)
<i>Federal Revenue</i>		
Contributions from Presidencies .	622,376·02	505,573·01
Contributions from Dominica .	6,994·18	5,563·06
Post Office . . . . .	20,415·92	160,159·09
Printing Office . . . . .	24,017·31	26,288·06
Development and Welfare Schemes	48,604·30	70,667·31
Other . . . . .	20,805·43	7,039·94
	<hr/> \$743,213·16	<hr/> \$775,290·47
	1953 \$	1954 \$ (Revised Estimates)
<i>Federal Expenditure</i>		
Pensions . . . . .	59,649·26	90,775·67
Governor . . . . .	42,283·86	33,677·66
Secretariat . . . . .	38,912·88	40,474·01
Audit . . . . .	40,862·25	39,654·64
Legal . . . . .	25,610·02	24,951·15
Police . . . . .	372,563·84	369,714·76
Printing . . . . .	32,858·54	30,011·31
Agriculture . . . . .	—	—
Education . . . . .	16,587·11	18,014·80
Medical . . . . .	—	—
Development and Welfare Schemes	44,146·38	70,667·31
Other . . . . .	69,739·02	57,349·16
	<hr/> \$743,213·16	<hr/> \$775,290·47



## ANTIGUA

	1953	1954 (Estimated)
<i>Revenue</i>	\$	\$
Customs . . . . .	1,049,908	900,600
Port and Harbour . . . . .	35,111	28,000
Internal Revenue . . . . .	929,154	767,776
Fees of Court, Office, etc. . . . .	1,115,266	2,234,313
Post Office and Telegrams . . . . .	21,538	134,670
Rents—Government Property . . . . .	8,208	4,484
Interest . . . . .	34,901	17,652
Miscellaneous . . . . .	43,391	46,765
Housing and Land Settlement . . . . .	3,623	5,800
Railway Extension Scheme. . . . .	5,615	4,406
<b>Total recurrent revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$3,441,064</b>	<b>4,144,466</b>
Land Sales . . . . .	618	820
Grant-in-aid:		
Hurricane Rehousing . . . . .	31,904	
In aid of Revenue . . . . .	946,560	1,185,307
Deferred maintenance . . . . .	—	38,329
<b>Total local revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$4,420,146</b>	<b>\$5,368,922</b>
Development and Welfare Schemes	565,171	301,695
<b>Total revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$4,985,317</b>	<b>\$5,670,617</b>
<i>Expenditure</i>	\$	\$
Administration . . . . .	72,209	137,811
Public Debt . . . . .	38,325	39,480
Pensions . . . . .	56,438	61,490
Federal Services . . . . .	275,525	268,792
Barbuda . . . . .	27,202	33,827
Customs, Excise and Port . . . . .	46,021	54,088
Agriculture . . . . .	1,146,949	2,452,759
Registrar, Provost Marshal and Magistrates . . . . .	34,680	36,778
Police . . . . .	52,672	78,808
Prison and Training School . . . . .	62,196	68,268
Medical and Central Board of Health . . . . .	162,096	180,068
Hospital and Charitable Institutions . . . . .	364,860	363,467
Education . . . . .	324,843	326,089
Government undertakings (Central Housing Authority)	5,269	19,029

	1953	1954 (Estimated)
	\$	\$
Treasury and Income Tax . . . . .	31,717	34,810
Water Board . . . . .	246,892	—
Municipal . . . . .	175,159	151,481
Labour . . . . .	18,250	22,350
Public Library . . . . .	9,407	9,718
Military . . . . .	—	7,224
Miscellaneous . . . . .	145,723	161,601
Coolidge Field . . . . .	20,609	17,670
Post Office and Telephones . . . . .	129,935	135,198
Public Works Department . . . . .	36,279	82,785*
Public Works Recurrent . . . . .	334,573	452,485
Supply Office . . . . .	4,874	—
Total recurrent expenditure . . . . .	\$3,820,704	\$5,196,076
Public Works Extraordinary . . . . .	192,703	185,000
Hurricane Rehousing . . . . .	25,648	—
Total Expenditure from local funds . . . . .	\$4,039,055	\$5,381,076
Colonial Development Schemes . . . . .	567,456	301,695
Deferred Maintenance . . . . .	—	35,938
Total expenditure . . . . .	\$4,606,511	\$5,718,709
<b>Public Debt</b>	\$	\$
Local loans . . . . .	191,463·36	191,463·36
Colonial Development and Welfare loans . . . . .	233,031·92	236,051·92
	1953	1954
	\$	\$
<b>Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Excess of Assets as at 31st December . . . . .	489,269·30	201·00
	1953	1954 (Estimated)
	\$	\$
<b>Taxation yields</b>		
Import duties . . . . .	861,778	826,195
Export duties . . . . .	188,129	74,405
Income tax . . . . .	582,886	420,000
Excise . . . . .	140,717	131,900

\* Includes water services.

## INCOME TAX STATISTICS

<i>Income group</i>	<i>1953</i>		<i>1954</i>	
	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>Total assessable incomes</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>	<i>Total assessable incomes</i>
£      £		\$		\$
100- 200 .	141	108,339	454	338,135
201- 300 .	279	330,723	388	411,984
301- 400 .	141	192,495	210	342,529
401- 500 .	71	150,942	109	235,298
501- 700 .	112	308,664	123	303,909
701- 900 .	69	262,431	79	297,991
901-1,100 .	32	152,359	35	172,064
1,101-1,300 .	23	131,534	19	105,015
1,301-1,500 .	10	65,804	18	114,294
1,501-1,700 .	7	60,295	9	68,946
1,701-2,200 .	10	87,903	8	71,035
2,201-2,700 .	9	103,011	10	112,913
2,701-3,200 .	1	14,982	2	29,333
3,201-3,700 .	1	16,291	—	—
3,701-4,200 .	1	19,232	1	19,053
4,201-4,700 .	1	20,315	—	—
4,701- .	1	48,431	1	34,924
<b>TOTAL</b> .	<b>909</b>	<b>\$2,073,751</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>\$2,657,423</b>

<i>Earning group</i>	<i>1953</i>		<i>1954</i>	
	<i>Number of companies</i>	<i>Total assessable incomes</i>	<i>Number of companies</i>	<i>Total assessable incomes</i>
£      £		\$		\$
100- 200 .	9	3,958	10	3,615
201- 400 .	2	2,369	3	3,864
401- 600 .	2	4,629	1	2,654
601- 800 .	2	7,523	1	3,290
801- 1,000 .	3	13,056	2	8,563
1,001- 1,500 .	2	11,163	3	18,155
1,501- 2,000 .	2	16,758	—	—
2,001- 2,500 .	1	11,791	2	21,992
2,501- 3,000 .	—	—	—	—
3,001- 4,000 .	1	14,768	4	67,388
4,001- 5,000 .	—	—	—	—
5,001- 6,000 .	1	25,311	—	—
6,001- 7,000 .	1	32,453	1	32,414
7,001- 8,000 .	—	—	—	—
8,001-10,000 .	1	38,943	1	42,032
Above .	3	1,435,929	4	1,297,348
<b>TOTAL</b> .	<b>30</b>	<b>\$1,618,651</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$1,501,315</b>

LEEWARD ISLANDS  
ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

	1953	1954 (Revised Estimate)
<i>Revenue</i>	\$	\$
<b>Customs:</b>		
Import Duty . . . . .	1,004,959	1,039,000
Export Duty . . . . .	430,171	416,206
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues .	115,270	110,044
Income Tax . . . . .	986,155	1,123,815
Other Taxes . . . . .	82,671	124,776
Excise . . . . .	26,899	37,718
Stamp Duty . . . . .	11,459	27,856
Licences and Internal Revenue .	71,100	76,742
Post Offices . . . . .	128,724	200,645
Electric Light, Cold Storage and Telephones . . . . .	101,226	144,524
Other . . . . .	282,988	369,567
	<hr/> \$3,241,622	<hr/> \$3,670,893
Peasant Development . . . .	539,233	479,138
 <i>Imperial Grants</i>		
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	193,407	191,055
Relief Works . . . . .	126,034	107,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenue . . . . .	\$4,100,296	\$4,448,586
	<hr/>	<hr/>
 <i>Expenditure</i>	\$	\$
Administration . . . . .	97,363	83,488
Public debt . . . . .	40,051	46,446
Pensions . . . . .	59,679	78,698
Federal contribution . . . . .	269,725	251,280
Treasury and Customs . . . .	126,325	152,825
Agriculture and Veterinary . .	156,058	165,731
Water Services . . . . .	71,198	70,281
Medical services . . . . .	279,124	286,428
Hospital and Charitable Institu- tions . . . . .	324,212	306,443

	1953	1954 (Revised Estimate)
	\$	\$
Education . . . . .	401,626	392,118
Post Office and Telephones. . . . .	118,882	124,387
Electric Light, Ice and Cold Storage . . . . .	131,943	228,170
Public Works . . . . .	572,911	608,621
Other . . . . .	401,537	462,638
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Peasant Development . . . . .	\$3,050,634 539,965	\$3,257,554 477,782
<i>Imperial Grants</i>		
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . . . .	236,443	134,867
Relief Works . . . . .	126,034	110,177
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure . . . . .	\$3,953,076	\$3,980,380
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1953	1954
	\$	\$
<i>Public Debt</i> (as at the 31st December):		
Local loans . . . . .	912,000	912,000
Colonial Development and Welfare loans . . . . .	18,043	14,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Public Debt . . . . .	\$930,043	\$926,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1953	1954
	Actual	Estimated
<i>Assets and Liabilities</i> (as at the 31st December):		
Excess of Assets . . . . .	\$1,383,356	\$1,851,562
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1953	1954
	\$	\$
<i>Taxation yields</i>		
Import duties . . . . .	1,004,959	1,039,000
Export duties . . . . .	430,171	416,206
Income tax . . . . .	986,155	1,123,815
Excise . . . . .	26,899	37,718
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## INCOME TAX—ASSESSMENTS MADE DURING 1952 AND 1953

Incidence of tax on individuals at varying rates of income and of Companies.

Group		1952		1953	
		Number	Tax	Number	Tax
£	£		\$		\$
100– 200 . . .		897	8,292	538	1,972·20
201– 300 . . .		90	4,675	206	2,685·72
301– 400 . . .		52	3,948	116	2,668·24
401– 500 . . .		24	3,517	59	2,433·08
501– 600 . . .		23	4,905	46	3,141·64
601– 800 . . .		19	5,964	32	3,255·36
801–1,100 . . .		19	10,242	27	5,044·20
1,101–1,500 . . .		16	20,229	37	15,669·84
1,501–2,000 . . .		16	35,632	15	15,538·24
2,001–2,500 . . .		3	9,869	18	41,939·44
2,501–3,000 . . .		1	4,318	2	7,543·68
3,001–3,500 . . .		1	5,985	3	12,513·68
3,501–4,000 . . .		2	15,155	8	61,230·56
Beyond 4,000 . . .		6	106,156	20	407,965·17
Companies . . .		28	258,868	23	573,802·96

There was an increase in the Company tax in 1953 from 6s. 6d. to 8s. 0d. in the £.

## MONTSERRAT

	1953	1954 (Estimated)
	\$	\$
<i>Revenue</i>		
Customs . . . . .	139,916	151,300
Internal Revenue, Excise Licences	56,496	73,819
Fees of Court or Office, etc. .	129,345	131,622
Post Office, Telephones, etc. .	54,390	44,391
Other . . . . .	19,208	20,670
Total local revenue . . .	\$399,355	\$421,802
Other (including United Kingdom grant-in-aid and Colonial Development and Welfare grants) . . . . .	445,015	505,282
Total revenue . . . . .	\$844,370	\$927,084

	1953	1954 (Estimated)
	\$	\$
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Public debt . . . . .	1,456	1,392
Pensions . . . . .	22,242	26,406
Federal services . . . . .	67,771	52,746
Administration . . . . .	32,516	28,381
Agriculture . . . . .	112,545	160,875
Water . . . . .	5,678	5,694
Medical and Health . . . . .	39,788	46,524
Hospital and allied services . . . . .	81,603	78,246
Education . . . . .	121,714	120,804
Post Office, Telephones, etc. . . . .	31,662	25,096
Public Works . . . . .	61,589	70,756
Otway Settlement . . . . .	12,196	8,142
Other . . . . .	122,066	124,522
Total local expenditure . . . . .	<u>\$712,826</u>	<u>\$749,584</u>
Other . . . . .	139,943	137,628
Total expenditure . . . . .	<u>\$852,769</u>	<u>\$887,212</u>

**Public Debt.** The public debt at the end of 1953 was \$7,532 and at the end of 1954 \$6,634.

**Assets and Liabilities.** Liabilities exceeded assets by \$16,962 at the end of 1953. The position at the end of 1954 was not ascertainable at the date of submission of this report.

	1953	1954 (Estimated)
	\$	\$
<b>Taxation Yields</b>		
Import Duties . . . . .	139,549	151,000
Export Duties . . . . .	367	300
Income tax . . . . .	19,354	30,000
Excise . . . . .	17,487	20,000
Post Office, Telephones, etc. . . . .	54,390	44,391

<i>Income group of individuals</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>		<i>Total assessable income</i>	
	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
£      £			£	£
100- 200 . . .	51	61	8,296	9,730
201- 300 . . .	55	80	13,370	19,243
301- 400 . . .	32	41	10,851	14,051
401- 500 . . .	23	24	10,080	10,682
501- 700 . . .	22	25	12,995	14,687
701- 900 . . .	15	19	11,677	15,136
901-1,100 . . .	6	6	5,977	5,988
1,101-1,300 . . .	2	4	2,488	4,733
1,301-1,500 . . .	2	2	2,772	2,779
1,501-1,700 . . .	1	1	1,600	1,594
1,701-2,000 . . .	1	1	1,755	2,652
Over 2,000 . . .	1	—	2,865	—

*Company incomes*

<i>Earnings group</i>	<i>Number of Companies</i>		<i>Total assessable income</i>	
	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
£      £			£	£
1-100 . . .	3	3	52	60
101-200 . . .	1	2	125	261
201-300 . . .	1	2	275	574
301-400 . . .	1	1	370	391
401-500 . . .	1	1	405	596
501-700 . . .	2	—	1,135	—

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954 (Revised Estimate)</i>
	\$	\$
<i>Revenue</i>		
Customs . . . . .	49,414	63,941
Taxes . . . . .	21,513	27,463
Fees of Court . . . . .	15,232	18,689
Post Office . . . . .	49,655	15,382
Imperial Grants . . . . .	341,345	385,899
Other . . . . .	30,909	40,837
<b>Total revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>\$508,068</b>	<b>\$552,211</b>



	1953	1954 (Revised Estimate)
	\$	\$
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Administration . . . . .	66,459	85,622
Public Debt . . . . .	—	—
Pensions . . . . .	5,920	7,820
Federal Services . . . . .	19,356	19,270
Agriculture . . . . .	30,390	31,159
Medical Services . . . . .	50,279	42,673
Education . . . . .	101,071	75,432
Police and Prison . . . . .	5,116	4,248
Post Office . . . . .	11,338	6,006
Public Works . . . . .	77,232	90,778
Other . . . . .	42,246	46,451
Colonial Development and Wel- fare schemes . . . . .	78,224	110,862
Total expenditure . . . . .	<u>\$487,631</u>	<u>\$510,321</u>
<i>Public Debt</i> . . . . .	Nil	Nil
<i>Assets and Liabilities</i> (as at 31st December)	\$	\$
Excess of Assets . . . . .	31,225	40,626
<i>Taxation yields</i>	\$	\$
Import duties . . . . .	45,034	46,700
Export duties . . . . .	4,380	4,300
Income Tax . . . . .	3,109	6,000
Excise . . . . .	2,878	2,800

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

The Currency Act, No. 4 of 1950, was designed to implement an Agreement between the British Colonies in the Eastern Caribbean to provide for a uniform currency, and a Board of Commissioners of Currency was constituted by the appointment by the Secretary of State of five Commissioners—one each from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands.

Notes of the British Caribbean Currency Board (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100) and United Kingdom coin are legal tender throughout the Colony. The notes in use are predominantly those of the British Caribbean Currency Board, though those of the Governments of Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad and Tobago are also in circulation to a small extent. In the British Virgin Islands, however, the currency in everyday use is American; notes of the British Caribbean Currency Board and United Kingdom coin, though legal tender, have virtually no circulation there. The dollar system of accounting is used by the Government, the banks and commercial houses.

The rate of exchange is \$4.80 B.W.I. to £1 sterling.

Barclay's Bank (D.C. & O.) has branches in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, whilst the Royal Bank of Canada has branches in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat. There is no commercial bank in the Virgin Islands.

There are Government Savings Banks in all four Presidencies and the amounts on deposit and the number of depositors continued to increase steadily as shown in the figures as at the 31st December, 1953, and 1954:—

	1953		1954	
	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Number of depositors</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Number of depositors</i>
	\$		\$	
Antigua . . . . .	777,467.00	7,000	785,000.00	7,500
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla .	757,600.00	5,552	934,918.00	5,962
Montserrat . . . . .	352,988.32	2,179	363,245.84	2,103
Virgin Islands . . . . .	73,336.00	398	98,252.00	472
	1,961,391.32	15,129	1,181,415.84	16,037

## Chapter 5: Commerce

The following tables show the value and quantities of goods imported into, and exported from, the Colony in 1953 and 1954:

### TOTAL IMPORTS

	1953 \$	1954 \$
Antigua . . . . .	7,865,974	7,417,076
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla . . . . .	8,879,089	8,971,678
Montserrat . . . . .	1,028,443	1,108,309
Virgin Islands . . . . .	546,776	694,800

### Principal Items Imported in 1954

	<i>Antigua</i>		<i>St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla</i>	
	<i>Value</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
	\$		\$	
Flour . . . . .	—	—	763,720	8,310,400 lbs.
Fish (all kinds) . . . . .	218,142	866,870 lbs.	344,991	1,123,174 lbs.
Grains (all kinds) . . . . .	84,298	954,971 lbs.	280,811*	1,375,300 lbs.*
Sugar . . . . .	—	—	—	—
Timber (unmanufactured). . . . .	330,168	1,276,527 ft.	518,056	1,476,868 ft.
Butter and butter substitutes . . . . .	167,991	225,448 lbs.	168,269	334,354 lbs.
Meat (all kinds) . . . . .	166,283	418,708 lbs.	272,354	521,588 lbs.
Boots and shoes . . . . .	130,826	54,404 prs.	191,873	84,660 prs.
Cotton piece goods . . . . .	231,675	555,812 yds.	521,908	—
Apparel . . . . .	82,533	—	142,603	—
Oils, non-edible . . . . .	365,955	1,145,294 galls.	273,190	916,692 galls.

	<i>Montserrat</i>		<i>Virgin Islands</i>	
	<i>Value</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
	\$		\$	
Flour . . . . .	153,310	1,735,800 lbs.	—	—
Fish (all kinds) . . . . .	38,418	134,107 lbs.	5,559	12,264 lbs.
Grains (all kinds) . . . . .	30,232*	263,520 lbs.	94,703†	1,060,794 lbs.†
Sugar . . . . .	88,649	1,274,358 lbs.	50,936	598,458 lbs.
Timber (unmanufactured). . . . .	6,592	25,588 ft.	44,437	171,728 ft.
Butter and butter substitutes . . . . .	17,618	31,675 lbs.	8,818	15,264 lbs.
Meat (all kinds) . . . . .	27,187	48,389 lbs.	13,072	17,045 lbs.
Boots and shoes . . . . .	42,013	15,982 prs.	15,248	4,810 prs.
Cotton piece goods . . . . .	53,036	106,889 yds.	23,197	—
Apparel . . . . .	9,756	—	7,116	—
Oils, non-edible . . . . .	—	—	18,407	50,227 galls.

\* Rice only.

† Includes flour.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

## TOTAL EXPORTS (including re-exports):

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Antigua . . . . .	6,388,577	2,734,851
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla . . . . .	9,993,086	8,779,072
Montserrat . . . . .	347,121	531,699
Virgin Islands . . . . .	288,331	366,013

*Principal Items Exported in 1954*

	Antigua		St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
	\$		\$	
Sugar . . . . .	2,131,429	11,083 tons	7,764,623	47,001 tons
Molasses . . . . .	26,986	449,760 galls.	161,024	1,228,003 galls.
Cotton . . . . .	238,291	278,567 lbs.	357,815	425,293 lbs.
Vegetables (all kinds)	—	—	—	—
Citrus products	—	—	—	—
Livestock	—	—	—	—
Fish (fresh)	—	—	—	—
Charcoal	—	—	—	—
Fruits (fresh)	—	—	—	—
Cotton seed meal and cake	—	—	—	—
Salt	—	—	80,833	9,326,400 lbs.
Copra	—	—	37,937	309,871 lbs.

	Montserrat		Virgin Islands	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
	\$		\$	
Sugar . . . . .	—	—	—	—
Molasses . . . . .	—	—	—	—
Cotton . . . . .	415,149	402,346 lbs.	—	—
Vegetables (all kinds)	15,355	134,142 lbs.*	14,094	—
Citrus products	17,757	†	—	—
Livestock	—	—	257,419	4,635
Fish (fresh)	—	—	17,630	80,125 lbs.
Charcoal	—	—	10,840	4,957 barrels
Fruits (fresh)	—	—	13,179	—
Cotton seed meal and cake	13,456	578,058 lbs.	—	—
Salt	—	—	—	—
Copra	—	—	—	—

\* Carrots—57,897 lbs.; tomatoes—76,245 lbs.

† Ecuelled lime oil—85 lbs.; raw lime juice—16,454 gallons.

## Chapter 6: Production

### ANTIGUA

#### *Land utilization and tenure*

The distribution of agricultural lands as determined at the last census in 1946 was as follows:

	<i>Acres</i>
Arable cultivated . . . . .	16,776
Uncultivated . . . . .	6,585
Pasture . . . . .	10,867
Other land, forest, etc. . . . .	34,892
	<hr/>
	69,120
	<hr/>

Arable land in the clay soils of the central plain is used for sugar cane cultivation, which is also the main form of cultivation in other areas where there are transport facilities. The lighter soils are used for the production of cotton and vegetables.

Under the Forestry Ordinance, 1941, there are reserved certain areas of forest land, most of which are privately owned, and within which the clearing and felling of trees is forbidden except under permit. Supervision is also exercised over certain other areas which form catchments for reservoirs.

The Agricultural Department, through its Peasant Development Division, advises peasants on soil conservation measures and is able to insist on contour cultivation by the operation of its agricultural machinery in appropriate cases.

Formerly, the greater part of the land was divided into individual sugar estates but, to save the industry from collapse during the Second World War, the estates were amalgamated into the Antigua Syndicate Estates Limited in 1943.

Relations between landlords and tenants are regulated by the Agricultural Small Holdings Act, 1938, in which provision is made for the termination of leases with compensation for unexhausted improvements and for disturbance. Owners of land belong to various races and, with the exception of certain shareholders in the Syndicate Estates, are mostly resident in Antigua.

As a result of the acquisition of estates' lands for peasant cultivation during the period under review and the arrangements reached for the utilization for agriculture of lands at the United States Army and Navy bases, the Government now controls about 17,000 acres. Such lands were formerly granted freehold to peasants, but are now granted on

long lease on terms which assure the peasants security of tenure as long as the land is properly cultivated and good farming practices are followed.

There are few land settlements in the accepted sense of the term. With few exceptions, cultivators live in the city or in the villages and work on the lands leased to them during the period when they are not fully employed in the sugar industry or elsewhere. By the end of 1954, there were 26 such areas of about 17,000 acres, of which about 8,500 acres of developed arable land were worked by more than 4,200 peasants.

### *Agriculture*

The acreage under and production of the principal crops was:

<i>Sugar</i>	<i>Calendar years</i>	
	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
Acreage—estates . . . . .	9,754	8,543
(accurate figures for peasant production are not available).		
Production (total long tons) . . . . .	31,558	12,601
Yield of Sugar: tons of cane per acre . . . . .	19.5	10.5
Tons of sugar per acre . . . . .	2.51	1.26

About two-thirds of the sugar crop is produced on large private estates, the remainder being produced by peasants under freehold or leasehold tenancy.

<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Crop years</i> <i>(August–May)</i>	
	<i>1952–3</i>	<i>1953–4</i>
Acreages . . . . .	1,300	2,860
Production (lbs.) MSI . . . . .	238,312	235,612
(lbs.) VH 8 . . . . .	38,892	42,955
Total clean lint (lbs.) . . . . .	277,204	278,567
Stained cotton (lbs.) . . . . .	8,699	13,365

About 80 per cent of the cotton crop is produced by peasants. MSI (Montserrat Sea Island) cotton is grown by all peasant cultivators and on some estates. VH 8, a longer staple cotton, is grown on some estates only.

	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>
Yield of Cotton: lbs. per acre clean lint . . . . .	213	97

The main factor which affected crops during the period under review was the weather. Heavy rains during 1952 hindered planting and this was followed by a serious drought in 1953, when the average rainfall was 28.29 inches as compared with a twenty-year average of 43.24 inches. This dry season was followed by a dry period from February to April in 1954.

*Processing*

**Sugar.** The whole sugar crop is manufactured by the Antigua Sugar Factory Limited, owned by a company registered in London. Production has been as follows:

	1953	1954
Long tons grey crystals . . . . .	31,588	12,601

**Cotton.** Two cotton ginneries operated in Antigua. One is the Antigua Cotton Factory which was taken over by the Industrial Development Board, a statutory body, late in 1952; and the other is a privately owned ginnery which operated only if there was a demand. A new ginnery of the Industrial Development Board was nearing completion at the end of 1954, and this will process the island's total production in future. In conjunction with this new ginnery will also be operated a plant for extracting oil from cotton seed and for the production of other vegetable oils.

The output of the two ginneries in 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

	1953	1954
Antigua Cotton Factory (Government ginnery)		
lbs. clean lint . . . . .	246,047	278,567
lbs. stained cotton . . . . .	5,699	13,365
Privately-owned ginnery		
lbs. clean lint . . . . .	31,157	Nil
lbs. stained cotton . . . . .	3,000	Nil
<b>Total lbs. . . . .</b>	<b>285,903</b>	<b>291,932</b>

*Marketing*

**Sugar.** In 1953, sugar exported by the Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd. was sold to the Ministry of Food at £42 6s. 8d. per ton f.o.b. In addition, about 3,500 tons were sold in the open market for about \$37·00 a ton less. In 1954, all sugar exported was sold to the Ministry of Food at £41 per ton f.o.b.

Prices paid to producers per ton of cane were as follows:—

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Non-contracting suppliers . . . . .	13·54	11·44
Contracting suppliers . . . . .	14·38	11·46

**Cotton.** During the period the Government continued to be the sole purchaser of cotton produced by peasant cultivators and also acted as marketing agent for cotton produced on estates. The prices paid for seed cotton to peasant producers were 21·4 cents per lb. in 1953 and 23·67 cents per lb. in 1954. After ginning, the cotton was sold to the Raw Cotton Commission at 84 cents per lb. Grade I MSI cotton, and 94 cents per lb. for Grade I VH 8 cotton with one-cent differentials for lower grades. These prices remained constant for 1953 and 1954.

*Other crops.* The Government Marketing Depot, which became absorbed at the beginning of 1954 into the re-organized Peasant Development Division of the Department of Agriculture, assisted in the marketing of minor crops by guaranteeing a minimum price for specified produce and acting as a marketing agency. The value of the produce purchased for re-sale was:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Local produce . . .	1,376·49	4,118·50
Imported produce . . .	3,527·77	2,162·52
Total . . .	<u>\$4,904·26</u>	<u>\$6,281·02</u>

### *Important events*

Weather conditions during the period under review were in general unfavourable. The heavy rains during 1952 hindered cane planting and the unusually dry season of 1953 further restricted crops. The results can be seen from the crop returns above. Conditions improved towards the end of 1954 and there were prospects of a very good cotton crop and a sugar crop not much below average for 1955.

The unification early in 1954 of Government control of peasant settlements, marketing, and the mechanical cultivation and haulage unit for peasant agriculture under the Peasant Development Division of the Department of Agriculture has already shown promising results, and an improvement in the standard of cultivation and marketing is already noticeable.

### *Agricultural Department*

The Agricultural Department is responsible for agriculture and animal husbandry, including the marketing of peasants' crops, land settlement and credit, field experimentation and livestock improvement. It also includes the newly created Fisheries Division. Projects undertaken by the Department are financed by the local Government, Colonial Development and Welfare schemes and, in the case of sugar experimental work, by the industry in collaboration with the Department. The functions of the staff cover administration, advisory work and extension work: experimental work, other than that on cotton and sugar which is provided by other organizations, is extremely restricted. The technical staff is as follows:

	Senior	Junior
Headquarters . . . . .	1	1
Veterinary and animal husbandry . . . . .	1	1
Central Station, Friar's Hill . . . . .	1	1
Greencastle Nursery and Fruit Farm . . . . .	1	1
Peasant Development Division . . . . .	2	12
Fisheries . . . . .	1	—
Protection Service . . . . .	—	2



*Government and other efforts to improve production*

**Sugar.** Agronomical research under the general control of the West Indian Sugar Cane Experimental scheme is financed by the industry and is under the control of a specialist appointed by the scheme. The biological control of the small moth borer is maintained by the regular liberation of parasites bred at the Antigua Sugar Factory. The laboratory work is financed by the industry.

**Cotton.** The Central Cotton Research Station for the West Indies is situated in Antigua and is under the control of the Cotton Officer. The station is financed under a Colonial Development and Welfare regional scheme. The enforcement of a strict close season of about three months during which no cotton may be grown, all plant residues must be destroyed and alternative hosts of cotton pests eradicated, aims at the control of serious cotton pests, particularly the pink boll worm. Samples of bolls from all cotton growing areas are examined towards the end of each season to assess pest infestation and to enable thorough action to be taken to control potential outbreaks. Outbreaks of the leaf worm (*Alabama agrillaces*) are controlled by spraying with lead arsenate.

*Credit facilities*

Government provides credit in the form of long and short term loans to farmers and fishermen. This credit covers, in peasant settlements, the cost of tractor-ploughing and cultivation, the cost of manures, and assistance in inter-cultivation and harvesting. Short-term loans are collected at harvest from the value of the sugar and cotton purchased. The amount of credit provided was \$330,504 in 1953 and some \$265,000 in 1954.

*Animal Husbandry*

Statistics of livestock show their number as follows:

	1950 (Estimated)	1954 (Census)	Increase	Decrease
Horses . . .	1,182	833	—	349
Mules . . .	307	213	—	94
Asses . . .	2,295	2,432	137	—
Cattle . . .	6,305	6,320	15	—
Sheep . . .	3,165	4,819	1,654	—
Goats . . .	5,844	4,939	—	905
Pigs . . .	2,590	1,525	—	1,065

Most of the animals are owned by peasants and are distributed throughout the island. In 1954 production amounted to 3,955 hides and skins and 4,113,900 lbs. of milk; no butter was produced. Animals slaughtered from 1951–1954 have been as follows:

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cattle . . .	1,397	1,892	1,960	1,869
Sheep . . .	1,550	1,588	1,908	2,073
Goats . . .	2,032	2,212	2,276	2,647
Pigs . . .	1,272	1,569	1,700	1,226
Total . . .	6,251	7,261	7,844	7,815

The peasant farmers produce about two-thirds of the animals in the island. The organisation of productive activity can be divided into two classes, commercial and non-commercial.

*Commercial* (a) *Commercial Dairies*. This group is made up of farms on which dairy cows are maintained in good condition. Pastures are cleared and fenced and water is supplied. During lactation, the cows are fed a dairy concentrate. A breeding programme is adhered to and the animals tuberculin tested twice annually.

(b) *Commercial beef ranches*. These ranches produce beef cattle. All practices of good husbandry are carried out. A breeding programme is followed. The herds are disease free and tuberculin tested annually.

*Non-Commercial* Peasant farmers comprise the vast majority of this classification. Each peasant owns a few cattle and several sheep and goats. The cattle are tethered wherever fodder is available; a small grazing fee is charged in some cases. The sheep and goats are often allowed to roam in search of food. Few measures of good husbandry are practised and little effort is made to improve breed or nutrition. The animals are watered twice daily in most cases. Pigs are usually garbage fed.

### *Marketing*

Cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are purchased on a "sight" basis by local butchers, who retail meat to the consumer. It is estimated that producers receive from 10-20 cents per lb. live weight for cattle, and 12-24 cents per lb. live weight for sheep and goats. Prices for retail cuts are controlled by Government.

Milk is sold either by a producer, who delivers bottled milk directly to the consumer, or by a retailer who purchases fluid milk in bulk, then bottles and distributes it to the consumer. Hides and skins are exported to Trinidad and New York for processing.

### *Veterinary Department*

The Department consists of one Veterinary Officer and one Field Assistant, Antigua, and one Livestock Officer, Barbuda. Policy comprises communicable disease prevention and control work; livestock improvement by feeding, breeding, management and marketing; and general veterinary practice.

Two livestock development schemes were started in 1954 with the object of improving peasants' animals and increasing the supply of fresh milk to the city.

Government and other efforts to improve production include (a) research: breeding for beef and milk production, and pasture improvement with Pangola grass; and (b) disease control: tick eradication and tuberculin testing.

### *Forestry*

There are no forests in the accepted sense of the term. Certain areas of lands, chiefly the steep hillsides, are maintained under "forest" to con-

serve soil and water. The few useful trees such as mahogany, red and white cedar, and white wood are exploited for timber when they happen to grow to sufficient size, but no attempt is made at management, planting of useful trees, or elimination of unprofitable species. The forests are mainly used by peasants for burning charcoal. There is no Forestry Department as such. The Protection Officers of the Department of Agriculture provide some small measure of protection of existing forest but no true forestry e.g. systematic afforestation, exploitation or regeneration, is practised.

### *Fisheries*

The main fishing banks are east, north and south of Antigua, also north-east of Barbuda and east of Redonda. The main methods are trolling, handline, beach haul seines and fish-pots.

Registration of fishermen has revealed that 679 persons fish for a living. The Fisheries Officer appointed during the latter part of the period under review commenced his investigation of the capture of flying fish and tested various types of fishing gear. A sum of \$50,000 was made available in 1954 for short and long term loans for fishermen as a step in the development of the local fishing industry.

### *Mining*

The ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown by Ordinance No. 1 of 1949. Geological surveys, instituted in 1951, continue. They are due to be completed in February, 1956. As a result of investigation and drilling, the water supplies of Antigua have been considerably improved but the work is not yet complete. Prospecting and other investigation of barytes deposits were undertaken at Belmont and the Shirley Heights area previously. Small scale work was re-commenced at Belmont late in 1954 and 60 tons stockpiled.

### *Manufacturing Industries*

*Sugar.* In 1954 the Antigua Sugar Factory completed its 50th crop. The following table analyses the results of the 1953 and 1954 crops:

	1953	1954
Tonnage of cane ground	245,111	104,971
Percentage of fibre in cane	18.94	18.68
Percentage of sucrose in cane	14.17	13.57
Purity of juice	85.03	83.24
Tons of sugar made	31,588	12,601
Percentage of sucrose extracted by the mills	95.00	94.69
Percentage of sucrose recorded in boiling house	91.90	89.72
Percentage of sucrose eventually recovered	87.33	84.95
Tons of cane per hour	80.84	61.80
Tons of cane to produce one ton of sugar	7.76	8.33
Net price per ton sold	£37 16s. 10d.	£38 15s. 8d.

*Other Industries*

The Industrial Development Board encouraged the development of two pioneer industries—sausage manufacturing and pottery. Financed in 1952 by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, an ornamental pottery factory was established at Coolidge Field and by the end of 1954 was operating at a small gross profit. Prospects for the future are bright, and it is hoped that advertising of the factory's products planned for 1955 will materially increase sales.

*Co-operative Societies*

There are no Co-operative Societies yet established in Antigua. Credit is, however, made available to peasants since Government controls the marketing of both their cotton and sugar cane, the crops being used as security for loans.

## ST. KITTS—NEVIS—ANGUILLA

*Land utilization and tenure*

Total land	96,000 acres
Arable land	28,000
Land for growing tree-crops, vines or shrubs	9,000
Permanent meadow and pasture	6,000
Wood or Forest land	18,000
All other land	35,000

There is no legislation in the Presidency which deals with soil conservation and the control of cultivation on steeply sloping lands. Contour cultivation to check soil erosion is not general practice on estates in St. Kitts. Government land settlement estates in St. Kitts and Nevis are cultivated on the contour and have been bunded with khus-khus grass at 6 ft. to 10 ft. vertical intervals and, where necessary, storm drains on the contour have been provided.

Land in the Presidency is owned as follows:

<i>Owned by</i>	<i>Arable land</i>	<i>Permanent meadow and pasture</i>	<i>Forest land</i>
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>
Indigenous inhabitants	18,000	3,000	13,000
Non-indigenous inhabitants	7,500	2,000	2,000
Government	2,700	1,100	3,000

Most of the land in the Presidency is held under freehold tenure. Two Government land settlement estates in Nevis have been allotted under freehold tenure but all other Government settlement estates have been allotted under short term lease or on a rental basis.

Plots on the upper lands of some estates in St. Kitts are rented to peasant cultivators on a monthly basis. Most of the estates allow their

labourers to work these lands under the metayer system, one-third of the produce going to the estate in lieu of rental. On many estates none of the produce is taken by the owner.

Under the provisions of the Agricultural Small Holdings Act, contracts can be arranged between the owners of land and cultivators and the provisions of the Act provide adequate security of tenure for tenants.

In Nevis many cultivators work land under the metayer system. Most owners of land take one-third of the produce in lieu of rental.

In 1951, a free grant of £18,460 was obtained from Development and Welfare funds for financing a Group Farm Pilot Project in Nevis. The project is based on the thesis that optimum land usage can only be achieved if adequate capital is invested in it and if skilled control of farming operations can be secured. The objective is, therefore, to lease to a group of men a unit of land into which enough capital has been sunk to enable it to be put to the best possible use, and to subject that group, through the terms of their lease, to a degree of control sufficient to ensure that they follow good agricultural practices. Two Government land settlement estates—Cades Bay and Spring Hill—are being used for the pilot project. So far satisfactory progress has been made with the cultivation of sugar cane, cotton, bananas, coconuts, ground provisions and green vegetables and the raising of livestock on the properties.

There are Government land settlements in the three islands of the Presidency. In St. Kitts there are three estates (900 acres), 11 in Nevis (3,750 acres) and two in Anguilla (300 acres). Two of the estates (in Nevis) have been allotted under freehold tenure while the other areas are held by allottees under short term leases or on a rental basis.

### *Agriculture*

In St. Kitts the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton is mainly done by estates. Some food crops are produced by estates but the bulk is grown by small cultivators. Some sugar cane is grown by peasants, chiefly on the Government land settlement estates. In 1953 and 1954 peasants cultivated 547 and 538 acres of cane respectively. The yield of sugar in 1953 from estates' canes was 3·83 tons per acre and from peasants' canes 2·74 tons. In 1954, the figures were 3·52 tons and 2·68 tons respectively.

In Nevis practically all cultivation is done by peasants. Only two properties are being operated on an estate basis.

In Anguilla all cultivation is done by peasants.

*Sugar.* Crop years 1951–53 and 1952–54, harvested 1953 and 1954, resulted in the following:

<i>St. Kitts</i>	1953	1954
Total acreage under sugar cane . . . . .	16,000	16,000
Acreage harvested . . . . .	13,168	13,985
Total cane ground (tons) . . . . .	430,243	409,342
Total sugar produced (96 grey crystals) (tons)	51,579	49,922
Average yield of cane per acre (tons) . . . . .	32·09	28·67
Average yield of sugar per acre (tons) . . . . .	3·85	3·50
Vacuum pan molasses produced (gallons) . . . . .	1,746,955	1,719,420

<i>Nevis</i>	1953	1954
Total approximate acreage under sugar cane	1,000	1,000
Acreage harvested . . . . .	900	800
Total cane produced (tons) . . . . .	8,582	9,058
Average yield of cane per acre (tons) . . . . .	9.50	11.30
Canes purchased by Government for shipment to St. Kitts (tons) . . . . .	7,970	8,638
Canes received at weighing station at St. Kitts (tons) . . . . .	7,708	8,398
Canes used for manufacture of muscovado sugar (tons, approximate) . . . . .	612	420
Muscovado sugar produced for local consumption (tons) . . . . .	40	28

*Sea Island Cotton.* In St. Kitts the cotton crop is planted in May and reaped in August–October. In Nevis and Anguilla the cotton crop is planted in September and reaped from February to April of the following year. Crop years 1952–53 and 1953–54:

<i>St. Kitts</i>	1953	1954
Acreage planted . . . . .	211	465
Total production of lint (lbs.) . . . . .	50,985	91,424
Total production of clean lint (lbs.) . . . . .	47,327	74,573
Total production of stains (lbs.) . . . . .	3,658	16,851
Yield of clean lint per acre (lbs.) . . . . .	224	160
Percentage of stains . . . . .	7.2	18.4

<i>Nevis</i>		
Acreage planted . . . . .	3,400	2,640
Total production of lint (lbs.) . . . . .	412,993	373,013
Total production of clean lint (lbs.) . . . . .	388,037	330,500
Total production of stains (lbs.) . . . . .	24,956	42,513
Yield of clean lint per acre (lbs.) . . . . .	114	125
Percentage of stains . . . . .	6.0	11.1

<i>Anguilla</i>		
Acreage planted . . . . .	60	64
Total production of lint (lbs.) . . . . .	4,410	10,582
Total production of clean lint (lbs.) . . . . .	4,248	10,386
Total production of stains (lbs.) . . . . .	162	196
Yield of clean lint per acre (lbs.) . . . . .	71	162
Percentage of stains . . . . .	3.7	1.9

*Food Crops.* The following crops are grown in the Presidency for local consumption: sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, Indian corn, tannias,

dasheen, eddoes, pigeon peas, blackeye peas, beans, green vegetables (tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, egg plant, beet, lettuce, etc.). The following are estimates of annual acreage and production:

	<i>Acres</i>
Millet and Sorghum . . . . .	140
Maize . . . . .	1,000
Edible dry beans . . . . .	600
Edible dry peas . . . . .	600
Groundnuts . . . . .	30
Bananas and plantains . . . . .	200
Sweet potatoes (including yams) . . . . .	2,200
Breadfruit . . . . .	150
Fruit trees (mango, avocado pear, soursop, etc.) . . . . .	800
Cassava . . . . .	1,000

*Production*

	<i>Long Tons</i>
Millet and Sorghum . . . . .	43
Maize (shelled grain) . . . . .	400
Edible dry beans . . . . .	50
Edible dry peas . . . . .	150
Cassava . . . . .	900
Sweet potatoes (including yams) . . . . .	5,000

*Coconuts.* The acreage under coconuts in Nevis is estimated at 680 acres. Exports of copra to Barbados were as follows: 1953—132 tons, 1954—118 tons; 8,350 nuts were exported in 1953 and 17,700 in 1954.

*Processing*

In St. Kitts there is only one sugar factory operating. This is owned by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd., a company which is registered in the United Kingdom.

There are four privately-owned cotton ginneries in St. Kitts. In recent years cotton production has been considerably reduced on the island and the output of the ginneries has been small. Output of the ginneries in 1953 and 1954 was as follows:—

	<i>1953</i>		<i>1954</i>	
	<i>Clean lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Clean lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>
	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>lb.</i>
Spooners Cotton Factory	23,257	1,868	36,447	8,396
Estridge Ginnery . . . . .	20,470	1,679	38,126	8,455
Stonefort Ginnery . . . . .	3,523	250	did not operate	did not operate
West Farm Ginnery . . . . .		did not operate		

There is an oil extraction plant at the Spooners Cotton Factory and a small quantity of refined cotton seed oil, and, in 1953, coconut oil, was produced for local use; the residue of cotton seed cake was sold as meal for feeding to livestock. Cotton seed purchased by Spooners Cotton Factory amounted to:

	1953		1954	
	<i>Prime seed</i>	<i>2nd quality seed</i>	<i>Prime seed</i>	<i>2nd quality seed</i>
	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>tons</i>
Nevis Ginney . . .	247·94	11·77	287·67	30·64
St. Kitts Gineries . . .	36·00	1·00	53·00	8·00
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Price paid per ton . . .	50·00	25·00	44·00	22·00

Cooking oil manufactured by this factory totalled 7,875 gallons of refined cotton seed oil in 1953, and 11,460 in 1954, and 1,168 gallons of coconut oil in 1953 and none in 1954.

In St. Kitts, the Government owns a plant for processing Indian corn. It consists of a drier, and sheller and mill which are used to a limited extent each year. Indian corn is only cultivated on a very small scale by the estates in St. Kitts, but the Agricultural Department has been able to purchase some shelled corn from Nevis and Trinidad for cracking and sale as animal feed. In 1953 and 1954, 23,077 lbs. of shelled corn and 12,104 lbs. of cob corn were produced.

In Nevis the Government owns two very old sugar works at the New River and Hamilton settlements. At these muscovado sugar is manufactured from peasants' canes for local consumption. The plants are operated by the peasants with paid labour under the supervision of an Agricultural Instructor. The plant on the Hamilton settlement was not used in 1953 and 1954 because of broken machinery. Approximately 40 tons of muscovado sugar were manufactured at the New River plant in 1953 and 28 tons in 1954.

There is one cotton ginney in Nevis. This is owned by the Government and operated by the Marketing Department. Output in 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

	<i>Clean lint</i>		<i>Stains</i>		<i>Seed sold for crushing (tons)</i>
	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
1953. . .	776	388,037	50	24,956	295·71
1954. . .	661	330,500	85	42,513	318·31

There is a small corn mill in Nevis owned by the Government and operated on one of the land settlement estates. At this mill Indian corn



is converted into meal for peasants at a nominal charge. In 1953, 6,100 lbs. of cornmeal were prepared for small cultivators and in 1954, 4,257 lbs.

In Anguilla there is one cotton ginnery which is owned and operated by Messrs. C. Rey & Co. Output was:

	<i>Clean lint</i>		<i>Stains</i>	
	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lb.</i>
1953 . .	17	4,248	1	162
1954 . .	41	10,386	1	196

### *Marketing*

The sugar crop is marketed by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd. through its London agents. In 1953 the Factory's quota of 30,883 tons of raw sugar was sold to the Ministry of Food at the negotiated price of £42 6s. 8d. per ton including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government as special funds for price stabilization, rehabilitation and labour welfare. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold in the open market and averaged about £8 per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £35 19s. 5d. per ton, f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory to contractors for canes was \$12.96 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$12.36 per ton. The price of grey crystal sugar for local consumption was controlled at 8 cents per lb. and washed sugar at 11 cents per lb. The value of the molasses exported was £20,526.

In 1954, the factory's quota of 31,650 tons of raw sugar was sold to the Ministry of Food at the negotiated price of £41 per ton including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government in respect of the special funds referred to above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and averaged about £10 per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £34 16s. 6d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory to contractors for canes was \$12.92 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$12.36 per ton. The value of the molasses exported was £24,709.

In St. Kitts cotton is marketed as baled lint through local agents. In 1953, the crop was sold to spinners in the United Kingdom at 3s. 10d. per lb., f.o.b. St. Kitts and a price of 4s. 0d. per lb. was obtained from the same buyers for the 1954 crop. These prices are for clean lint Grade 1.

In Nevis the peasants' cane and cotton crops are marketed by the Agricultural Department. Government collects a marketing commission of 4 per cent on the gross proceeds from sales of cotton lint and seed and 1 per cent on the proceeds from sales of cane.

Purchases and prices of the cane and cotton crops for 1953 and 1954 were as follows:

## SUGAR CANE

	<i>Quantity purchased by Marketing Department for shipment to St. Kitts</i>	<i>Price paid for canes by St. Kitts Factory</i>	<i>Price paid to growers by Marketing Department (at scales)</i>
	<i>tons</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
1953 . .	7,970	12·60 per ton	9·60 per ton
1954 . .	8,638	12·60 per ton	9·92 per ton

## COTTON

	<i>Clean seed cotton purchased by Marketing Department</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>¢</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>¢</i>
1953 . .	1,113,297	25 per lb.	51,361	13 per lb.
1954 . .	936,368	25 per lb.	102,031	12 per lb.

The average price obtained in the United Kingdom for clean lint marketed by the Agricultural Department was 3s. 6½d. per lb. in both years.

In Anguilla the peasants sold their seed cotton to Messrs. C. Rey & Co. and received 7¾d. per lb. for clean seed cotton in 1953 and 1s. 0d. per lb. in 1954.

*Important events*

In 1953 the sugar crop was a record one—51,579 tons of sugar being produced as against the previous record of 50,614 tons in 1952. The crop might have been larger but very dry weather during the reaping season checked the growth of the late ratoons. Further, labour difficulties towards the end of crop resulted in approximately 9,000 tons of cane being left in the fields. The 1954 crop amounted to 49,922 tons of sugar. This decrease was a result of the low rainfall in 1953 and very dry weather during the reaping season. But for the increased acreage under the high yielding variety B41211, which was introduced by the Agricultural Department in 1947, production would have been still lower.

In 1953, the planting date for the cotton crop in St. Kitts was changed from March to May. There was a reduction in the acreage planted and the crop was a small one but the quality of the lint was better than it has been for many years past. Little pink bollworm damage and a very dry reaping season were responsible for this improvement in quality. The

1954 cotton crop was larger but the quality of the lint much below that of the previous crop. The reaping season was very wet and the incidence of pink bollworm infestation much higher than in 1953. The crop carried 18 per cent of stains as against 7 per cent for the previous crop.

For the 1952-53 season, a larger acreage of cotton was planted in Nevis than in the previous season but, as a result of the unsatisfactory distribution of rainfall during the 1952 growing season, and the dry weather during the early months of 1953, the yield of the crop was considerably below that of the 1951-52 crop although the quality of the lint was much better as there was very little damage by pink bollworm. In 1953, there was only 6 per cent of stains as against 14 per cent for the crop reaped in 1952. The yield of the 1953-54 crop was slightly better than that of the previous crop but there was more pink bollworm damage and a higher percentage of stains.

The 1953-54 cotton crop in Anguilla was the best crop for very many years. The rainfall was good during September to December, 1953, and in January and February, 1954. The crop was only very slightly attacked by the pink bollworm and stains amounted to only 2 per cent of the crop.

### *Agricultural Department*

The principal members of the staff of the Agricultural Department at 31st December, 1954, comprised:

#### *St. Kitts*

- Agricultural Superintendent
- Two Agricultural Assistants
- A Land Officer and Cotton Inspector
- A Senior Agricultural Instructor
- Two Agricultural Instructors
- A Foreman, Experimental Station
- A Manager, Livestock and Dairy Farm.

#### *Nevis*

- Agricultural Officer
- A Marketing Officer
- A Senior Marketing Assistant
- Four Marketing Assistants
- A Foreman, Experimental Station
- A Land Officer
- A Cotton Inspector.

#### *Anguilla*

- Senior Agricultural Instructor
- A Foreman, Agricultural Station.

### Agricultural policy is

1. The conservation of soil and the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility.
2. The control of pests and diseases of crops.
3. The improvement of peasant agriculture in the Presidency.
4. The development of livestock industries in Nevis and Anguilla.
5. The improvement of crop yields by the introduction of new and better varieties of crop plants and by the improvement of manurial and cultivation practices.
6. The encouragement of the production of local food crops.

### *Efforts to improve production*

*Sugar cane.* The Agricultural Department conducts varietal, manurial, spacing and cultivation experiments with sugar cane each year in co-operation with the research committee of the St. Kitts Sugar Association and the owners and managers of estates. The experiments are laid down on the estates by officers of the Department and planted, manured and reaped under the supervision of these officers. The results of the experiments are printed and published annually. A small number of cuttings of new cane varieties is received each year by the Department from the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station at Barbados. These are planted at the Government Experimental Station and here the varieties are multiplied for planting observation plots on estates and nurseries for obtaining sufficient planting material for varietal trials. The Government of the Presidency makes an annual contribution to the Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station at Barbados.

*Cotton.* Multiplication plots are planted each year in St. Kitts and Nevis with pedigree seed, which is obtained from the cotton station in Montserrat, for maintaining the purity of the seed which is used for planting the commercial crops in the two islands.

*Food crops.* An Agricultural Assistant in St. Kitts is employed on advisory and demonstration work among the peasants who grow food crops on the upper lands of estates. It is hoped that the work of this officer will result in an increase in the present yields of crops which are grown on these upper land areas.

Agricultural extension work in the Presidency is on a limited scale owing to the lack of trained personnel on the staff of the department. A start has now been made with the training of junior staff at the British Caribbean Farm Institute and in a few years time the position should be greatly improved.

Credit facilities are provided by Government for peasants in St. Kitts and Nevis to enable them to obtain their requirements of artificial manures, insecticides and agricultural tools. These facilities have now been extended to enable peasants in Anguilla to obtain supplies of fencing wire for their paddocks on easy terms.

*Animal Husbandry*

Statistics of livestock are set out in the following table:

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Poultry</i>
St. Kitts .	3,175	301	373	613	1,003	670	392	5,518
Nevis .	2,406	371	130	1,048	1,829	3,548	2,251	9,886
Anguilla .	813	10	2	118	823	2,752	1,563	4,096
Totals .	6,394	682	505	1,779	3,655	6,970	4,206	19,500

Distribution:

*St. Kitts*

Cattle owned by estates . . . . .	657
Cattle owned by labourers . . . . .	1,134
Cattle owned by Government . . . . .	120
Cattle on Government Settlements . . . . .	50
Cattle owned by peasants and others . . . . .	1,214
Horses—almost entirely owned by estates.	
Mules and Donkeys—majority owned by peasants.	
Swine, Sheep and Goats—majority owned by peasants.	

*Nevis*

Apart from the Maddens cattle breeding scheme, which is operated by the Government, some livestock on Government settlements, and livestock on three privately owned estates, all classes of livestock are owned by the peasantry.

*Anguilla*

The majority of livestock on the island is owned by the peasantry.

The only production figures available are those for hides and skins which are cured locally and exported; exports in 1954 were valued at about £313. Production, apart from Government centres, is in the hands of peasants and is entirely for local consumption. There are no companies concerned with animal production.

*Veterinary Department*

The Department consists of a Veterinary Officer, one Stock Inspector and a clerk, attached to the Agricultural Department. The policy of the department is to increase livestock production by endeavouring to improve the present system of animal husbandry and by the control of diseases and parasites. The Government has livestock improvement schemes in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. There were two epidemics of contagious diseases in St. Kitts—*Anaplasmosis* and *Haemorrhagic septicaemia*—in 1953–54. Both were satisfactorily controlled.

*Forestry*

There is no forestry department in the Presidency. The forest areas in St. Kitts and Nevis are regarded entirely as protective forests and very little exploitation is allowed. In St. Kitts there is a Forestry Board which controls the work of protecting the forest areas. The Government employs a Forest Guard and three forest rangers whose work is supervised by an Agricultural Assistant. There is also a Forestry Board in Nevis whose chairman is the Agricultural Officer. Protection of the forest areas is carried out by a Forest Guard and two forest rangers.

*Fisheries*

There is no Fisheries Department in the Presidency and very little has yet been done to develop the fishing industry.

*Mining*

The ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown. No mining was carried on in the Presidency during the period under review, but in 1954 the Government Geologist, aided by Dr. R. J. Smith of the Colorado School of Mines, undertook a survey of the alunite deposits in Nevis.

*Co-operative Societies*

There were no co-operative societies in the Presidency in the period reviewed.

## MONTSERRAT

*Land utilization and tenure*

A rough estimate of the agricultural land is as follows:

	<i>Acres</i>
Arable land . . . . .	8,800
Tree-crops, vines or shrubs . . . . .	499
Permanent meadow and pastures . . . . .	1,498
Wood or forest land . . . . .	4,998
All other land . . . . .	5,005
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 20,800 <hr/>

The clearing of forest land is controlled by legislation. There is no legislation for the conservation of soil but considerable anti-erosion work is done, and at the end of 1954 the total area over which conservation measures have been carried out totalled 1,937 acres.

The following table gives an estimate of the distribution of various types of land and the nature of tenure:

	<i>Cultivated land</i>	<i>Uncultivated land, including forest land below an altitude of 1,500 feet</i>	<i>Forest land above an altitude of 1,500 feet</i>	<i>Totals</i>
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>
Companies or individuals in England .	1,700	3,000	1,200	5,900
Inhabitants of Montserrat .	4,200	4,000	1,000	9,200
Land settlement (Government owned) .	500	500	200	1,200
Total .	6,400	7,500	2,400	16,300

Land is held by freehold and by lease in case of the Otway Settlement and in a few other instances. Renting of land has been a feature of the estate system for many years. Labourers on the estates are usually allowed to rent a portion of estate land of from one-half to one acre in size on an annual basis. The share-cropping system also survives on the estates in connection with cotton cultivation but its abolition is under consideration.

Efforts to stimulate improvement in agricultural production by the use of mechanical tillage on estates and peasant holdings have proved encouraging. The demand for the service of the Agricultural Department's tractor has been considerable, not only on government land settlement areas but also on the lands of private cultivators. Estate tractors were kept fully occupied throughout the period.

#### *Agriculture*

In 1953, rainfall was light throughout the island during the first three months of the year and the weather was severely dry during April to June. Sufficient rain fell in July in most districts to give cotton plants a new start and in the following four months to develop a crop. It was, however, a very dry year, and most crops suffered badly. The rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station was 44·86 inches, this being 15·68 inches below the average of the previous 53 years. The year 1954, though somewhat better in rainfall, was also a comparatively dry year. In the leeward districts, rainfall was barely sufficient for the growth of cotton. In the windward districts, low rainfall during February to April hampered the establishment of the cotton crop and the fairly heavy rains in August and September accentuated the incidence of pink bollworm and black boll. The rainfall recorded at the Agricultural Station for 1954 was 51·90 inches.

**Cotton.** The acreages of land planted to cotton under various systems of land tenure for the biennial period are shown below:

	<i>Acres</i>	
	1953	1954
Estate cultivation . . . . .	702	932
Peasants freehold or rented lands . . . . .	1,184	1,624
Share cropping . . . . .	84	391
Total acreage . . . . .	<u>1,920</u>	<u>2,947</u>

Production and yields of cotton during 1953 and 1954 are shown below:

	1953	1954
Total lint produced (lbs.) . . . . .	339,856	409,359
Clean lint produced (lbs.) . . . . .	325,756	376,937
Total lint per acre (lbs.) . . . . .	172	139
Clean lint per acre (lbs.) . . . . .	165	128
Stained lint per cent of total crop . . . . .	4.1	7.9

After lengthy negotiations, the 1953 crop was finally sold to Messrs. H.S. (Manchester) and Deltapine (Export and Import) Ltd. (Manchester), partly on the basis of sample and partly on the basis of grading. The price received for the lint sold on the former basis was 92 cents per lb. f.o.b. Montserrat, while the graded lint fetched from 86 to 92 cents per lb. f.o.b. The whole 1954 crop of clean lint was sold to Deltapine (Export and Import) Ltd. on a graded basis at prices ranging between 52 pence and 54 pence per lb.

The six cotton ginneries, including the Government-owned one located at Parsons Estate, operated satisfactorily. Proprietors brought clean seed cotton at 24 cents per lb. during 1953, and at 28 cents per lb. during 1954.

**Tomatoes.** Tomato production in 1954 showed a sharp drop compared with that of 1953. The factors combining to affect tomato production adversely were mainly restricted shipping facilities, limited markets and unstable prices in the Caribbean islands. The low prices obtained for the 1953 crop were an additional factor in accentuating apathy in production in 1954. Tomato exports in 1953 amounted to 183,888 lbs., valued at \$20,000, and in 1954 the total export was 66,725 lbs., valued at \$8,642.

**Limes and Lime Products.** The long periods of dry weather experienced in recent years have been taking toll of lime trees and gradually the lime orchards are becoming more and more sparse. An attack of blight and scale insects in the latter part of 1953 caused many trees to die, but work has been started in replacing these. The table below



shows comparative figures of the main lime and lime products exported during the period under review:

Year	Fresh Limes (lbs.)	Lime Juice (gals.)	Ecuelled Oil (lbs.)	Total Value \$
1953	2,973	30,635	699	30,000
1954	2,800	16,454	85	17,900

*Sugar cane.* About 200 acres of sugar cane were grown in 1953 and 150 acres in 1954. Some 20 barrels of muscovado sugar were produced in 1953 and six barrels in 1954; but the bulk of the cane is used in the manufacture of rum, of which 1,900 gallons valued at \$3,900 were produced in 1953, and 51,529 gallons valued at \$9,626 were produced in 1954.

*Food crops.* A good variety of crops was grown, production in most cases being partly for local consumption and partly for export. Apart from tomatoes, the total export of fruit and vegetables in 1953 was 127,097 lbs. valued at \$14,900, and in 1954 was 184,310 valued at \$12,882.

### *Marketing*

In 1953 the Government Marketing Depot purchased, packed and shipped 2,529 thirty lb. crates of tomatoes and packed 77 crates on behalf of private buyers. The small tomato crop of 1954 was all handled by private buyers. The greater bulk of vegetables and fruit was purchased from producers by private exporters who were required to have the produce inspected by the Government Marketing Depot before exporting it to places outside the Leeward Islands. The Government Marketing Depot also controlled the export in order to ensure an adequate supply for local consumption. In 1953, the Depot handled shipments of, and made payments for, a portion of the island's cotton crop and in 1954 it executed entirely both transactions.

### *The Agricultural Department*

The Department's agricultural personnel at the end of 1954 comprised:

- The Agricultural Superintendent;
- The Agricultural Assistant;
- The Manager, Otway Peasant Land Settlement;
- The Livestock Officer;
- Two Agricultural Instructors;
- Agricultural Probationers; and the
- Foreman, Grove Agricultural Station.

Agricultural Instructors and other officers of the Agricultural Department spent much time in giving advice and in conducting demonstration work for the benefit of peasants and land owners generally throughout the island. These activities included soil conservation measures, food campaign drives, "follow-up" of the progenies of the Department's stud animals, treatment and care of animals and the encouragement of

livestock husbandry, including the improvement of pastures and the planting of fodder grasses. The use of film strips in this extension work was begun in 1953 and continued in 1954.

### *Land Settlement*

At the end of 1954 there were about 300 tenants on the Otway Land Settlement renting about 400 acres of cotton land and 150 acres of provision holdings. A contract of tenancy for tenants became effective on the 1st January, 1954. One effect of the contract was to increase the annual rent of cotton holdings from \$4.80 to \$7.20 per acre and of provision holdings from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per acre. The tenants grew cotton, tomatoes and food crops, and many of them kept a head or two of cattle in addition to small stock and adopted the practice of stall feeding their animals in order to provide manure for their holdings. The Parsons Ginnery located on the settlement operated as usual, mostly processing cotton grown on the settlement. The following table gives the amounts of cotton purchased and ginned:—

	1953	1954
Clean seed cotton bought from settlers (lbs.) . . . . .	158,828	152,224
Clean cotton lint shipped (lbs.) . . . .	48,969	46,279
Overall ginning outturn of clean lint (per cent) . . . . .	30.8	30.4

The Settlement Advisory Board held eight meetings during 1953 and five during 1954 and gave much valuable advice on the running of the settlement.

### *Animal Husbandry*

The livestock of the island remained chiefly in the hands of small farmers but estate owners have evinced interest in the livestock development scheme financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. Efforts to improve the island's cattle by crossing with Red Poll-Senegal sires continued but the dry weather experienced in the past two years has resulted in poor grazing conditions which make the crosses difficult to raise. However, a considerable number of promising young cattle show the Red Poll characteristics. Some of these have made good quality beef. One Zebu bull and one Sahiwal bull were imported in 1954 from the Government Stock Farm in Trinidad. Other importations of livestock included six large black boars and two gilts from the Stock Farm in Trinidad and one Canadian light draught stallion and one brood mare from Antigua.

Locally produced supplies of meat, milk, poultry and eggs were still inadequate to meet the demands of the community.

There were no serious outbreaks of disease among livestock during the period under review. In 1953, following reports of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Martinique, precautions were taken to reduce the risk of its introduction into Montserrat.

The Agricultural Department continued to control the slaughter of female livestock for meat and the Police and Municipal Authorities registered slaughtering for meat which, in 1953 and 1954, were as follows:—

	1953	1954
Cattle . . .	357	465
Goats . . .	604	917
Sheep . . .	505	655
Pigs . . .	295	250

About 277 dozen hides and skins were exported in 1953 valued at \$2,147, and in 1954 the amount exported was about 470 dozen valued at \$2,364.

### *Forestry*

The main objective of forestry policy in the Presidency is aimed at the protection of forests for shelter and for the conservation of soil and water. Secondary objectives are the production of firewood and charcoal, and timber for household use and furniture making. A Forestry Board regulates the protection and management of forests. Some 23,000 feet of commercial timber as well as other timber which produced 570 bundles of shingles were cut in 1953, their value being estimated at \$9,000. In 1954, some 300,000 feet of commercial timber and other timber producing 463 bundles of shingles were cut, their value being \$11,178. During 1954, it was decided to allow the exportation of a limited quantity of red cedar on a quota basis. The Forestry Officer was assisted by Forest Rangers and they visited regularly all forest areas. In 1953, there were 13 prosecutions and in 1954, 19, for breaches of the Forest Ordinance.

### *Fisheries*

Fishing remains an undeveloped industry in Montserrat. During 1954, the Fisheries Officer of Antigua visited the Presidency to investigate the possibilities of catching flying fish off the coastal waters and subsequently an exploratory fishing project was conducted, but it turned out that the experiment was conducted at the end of the flying fish season and very few results were produced. Fishing is unorganised and unreliable and the few tons caught are consumed locally, catches being disposed of on the beach or in the public market if catches are large enough to reach the latter.

### *Mining*

There are no known mineral deposits on the Island which may be exploited.

### *Manufacturing industries*

As ancillary to the production and ginning of cotton the Montserrat Company Limited operated its small factory for the manufacture of edible oil from cotton seed, cotton seed meal and cake used for stock

feed and as fertilizer, and a little soap for domestic purposes. A small quantity of rum is manufactured in the island by local interests.

### *Co-operative societies*

There were no co-operative societies in the Presidency during the period reviewed.

## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

### *Land utilisation and tenure*

Except in the island of Anegada (which is completely flat and too thinly covered with soil to be of much use agriculturally) there is very little flat land anywhere in the Presidency. Indeed, the total area of flat land is only about 700 acres; the rest is on steep hill slopes. The average slope is 35°, and 50° is not uncommon. The hillsides are covered with secondary woodlands, guinea grass pasture and croton thicket. On the tops of mountain ridges and in the flat "bottoms" in the foothills, the land is arable and is chiefly used for the growing of vegetables and ground provisions. Cultivation is entirely by hand implements, there being no animal-drawn or agricultural machinery of any type.

There are some areas of Crown lands, but from the middle of the last century the land has been owned by small peasant cultivators, whose average holding today is 18 acres. There are few persons owning more than 100 acres.

The present land law, based on English models, is almost completely incomprehensible to the peasant. It has brought about a situation where there is hardly a title in the Presidency which is secure, other than the few cases where land has been acquired by the first purchaser from the Crown. Interminable property disputes arising from the chaotic state of titles have become a characteristic feature of Virgin Islands life. They do not tend to improve husbandry. It is hoped that new legislation and a cadastral survey may improve these conditions but it was not possible during 1953-54 to make progress in these directions.

### *Agriculture*

While there are grounds for some satisfaction in the progress made in the livestock industry, much concern has been felt over the decline in the production of local vegetables, ground provisions and fruit. The causes of the decline are complicated, but may broadly be summarised as follows:

- (a) *migration*: the pattern of population movement which takes a considerable slice of the population of the Presidency away from their holdings to seek wage employment in St. Thomas, American Virgin Islands;
- (b) *urbanization*: the tendency of the "floating element" of the population gradually to relinquish their rural mode of life and adopt the culture patterns of urban St. Thomas;

- (c) *competition from the continental United States*: tourism has brought to St. Thomas not only "de luxe" resort hotels and the thousands of tourists for whom they cater, but also regular refrigerated air-freight and steamship services with Puerto Rico and the United States. Together, both factors have made possible the establishment in Charlotte Amalie of several super-markets carrying cheap, mass-produced, fresh and processed American foods;
- (d) *partial loss of the St. Thomas market*: vegetables for which there is an American substitute will only sell readily in St. Thomas when the American commodity is unavailable (as it hardly ever is); and,
- (e) *lack of marketing organization* which could meet continental competition by ensuring quality and regularity of supply.

The problem is engaging the attention of the Administration and ways and means are being sought at least to arrest the further decline of the local production of farm commodities other than livestock.

The year 1953, in which 47·71 inches of rain fell, was the driest since 1945-46; rainfall was 5·06 inches below the average for the years 1945-54. Rainfall in 1954 was only 3·49 inches more than in 1953.

### *Animal husbandry*

The production of livestock, particularly cattle, continues to expand. The total exports for 1952, 1953 and 1954 were 3,841, 3,267 and 4,635 respectively. In the last four years 20 bulls produced at the Agricultural Station have been sold for stud purposes. These together with 10 Senapol bulls imported from St. Croix in 1952 for resale to farmers at subsidised prices, have materially effected the "up-grading" process to which the Department has been giving attention for several years.

The area of cultivated pasture has increased considerably, especially in the eastern districts of Tortola. The two main factors stimulating this development were the high prices of livestock and the impetus provided by an agricultural credit scheme, which was approved in 1952. Financed by a free grant of \$28,800·00 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds the scheme makes it possible for farmers to obtain small loans in the form of cash or fencing materials, or both, for improving or expanding their pastures. Loans are issued, subject to a satisfactory report by the Agricultural Officer and to other safeguards, on the collateral security of land to a maximum of two-thirds of its value. Loans are generally for a period of four years. The first year, during which no repayments are made, is interest free, the rate of interest in subsequent years being 3 per cent per annum. Repayments, including interest, are made in equal quarterly instalments spread over the three year period. In 1954, approval was given for the payment of a bounty of up to 10 per cent of the loan made to a farmer who had made proper use of the assistance available under the

scheme. At the end of the period under review loans totalling \$28,260 had been made to 102 farmers for the development of approximately 1,200 acres of land. There have been many cases in which the instalments have been overpaid and a few in which the loans have already been repaid in full. It is a regrettable circumstance, however, that many would-be borrowers were unable to qualify for loans through not having clear title to land, providing thereby another example of the way in which production and effective land utilization in the Presidency are being hampered by fragmentation, plurality of ownership, and confusion of title for most of the land.

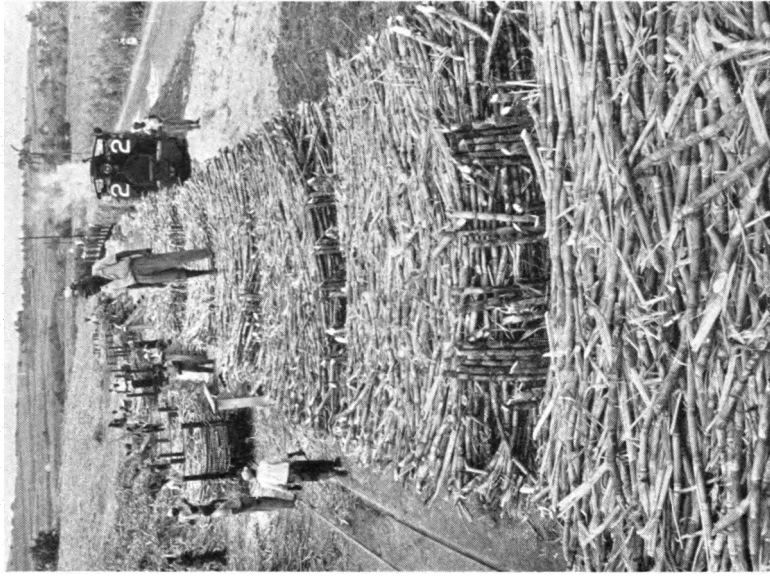
Apart from effects of under-feeding due to drought, animal health was generally good. A few cases of *Prioplasmosis* and *Anaplasmosis* were encountered in Tortola for the first time in 1954. In order to minimize the danger to the livestock industry of tick borne diseases, a tick eradication campaign will be embarked upon in 1955 under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. The campaign is for the island of Tortola only as all the other cattle rearing islands are tick free.

### *Forestry*

In 1954, the Conservator of Forests, Trinidad and Tobago, recommended that the remainder of the xerophytic rain forest on Sage Mountain (some 500 acres) should be preserved. For one reason or another it was not possible to implement the recommendation. In 1954, legislation was passed which authorised the Governor in Council to declare a forestry area in order to prevent de-afforestation and denudation of land on steep slopes to prevent soil erosion and the deposit of earth, mud, stones and sand upon agricultural land, or to protect roads and highways. Dr. H. Wadsworth of the U.S. Forest Service, Puerto Rico, visited the Presidency in July, 1954, to study the forest problems and advise on the development of a general programme of re-afforestation. With reference to the Sage Mountain forest (now reduced to between 80 and 100 acres) Dr. Wadsworth writes:

“the forest vegetation is apparently unique. It has no counterpart elsewhere in Tortola, in the other Virgin Islands, in nearby Puerto Rico, nor according to Beard, anywhere in the Lesser Antilles. This vegetation, as a relic in an isolated habitat, is of great scientific value . . . . Geologically, the area is attached to Puerto Rico yet the soil, apparently derived from andesitic tuffs appears generally more favourable than similarly derived soils in Puerto Rico. The flora, which is Greater Antillean, contains many species which do not grow elsewhere in Tortola.”

He recommended the declaration of this forest as a forest area under the law and preliminary action has already been taken. The advice thus given will form the basis of the planning necessary to meet the forest conservation needs of the Presidency.

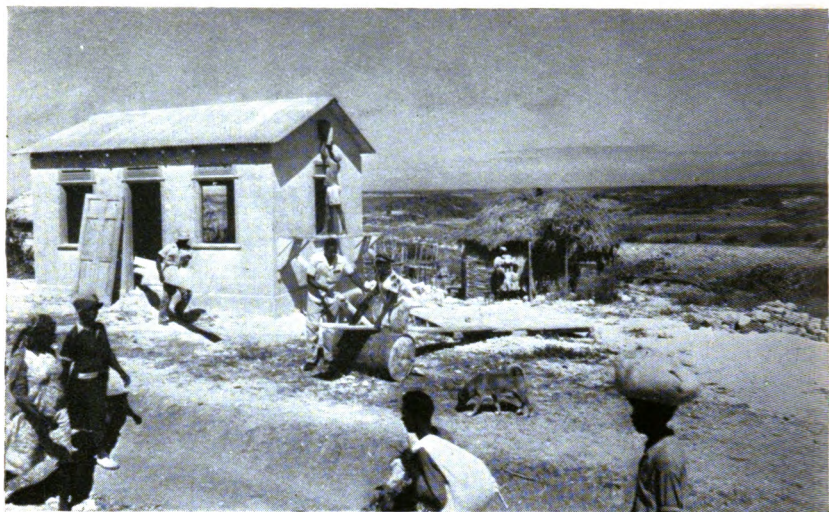


A train loaded with sugar cane in St. Kitts



Interview at the Basseterre Health Centre, St. Kitts





Cement block house at Willikies Village, Antigua, being built by the aided self-help method to replace the hut in the background

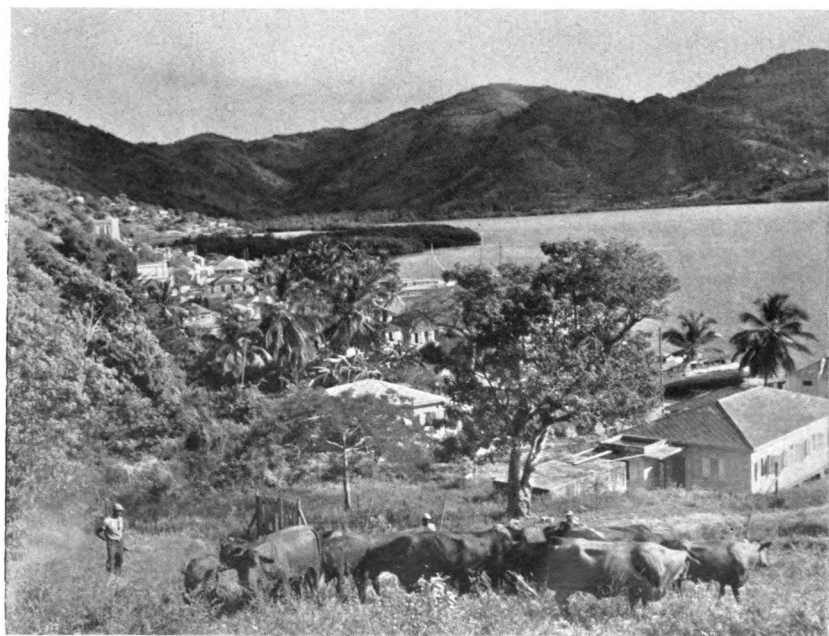


Samples of Sea Island Cotton being measured at the Central Cotton Station, Antigua

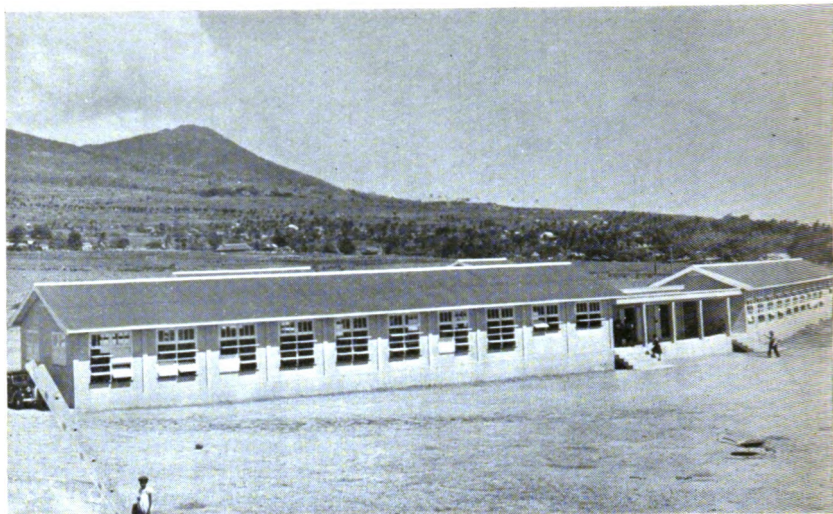




**Holberton Hospital, Antigua**



**Senapol cattle at the government stock farm Tortola, British Virgin Islands**



The new secondary senior school, Montserrat, built with C.D. & W. funds



A cookery class at Charlestown Secondary Modern School, Nevis

### *Fisheries*

There was a sharp rise in the production of fish which had dropped in 1951-52. The exports for 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 were 36,909, 40,910, 64,972, and 80,125 lbs. respectively. The chief fishing centres in descending order of importance are Anegada, Peter and Salt Island, West End and Jost Van Dyke. The methods in most common use are fish-pots, seines, and line-fishing. The typical fishing boat is a fore-and-aft rigged sloop about twenty feet overall. Several are fitted with live-well tanks. A few are powered with auxiliary engines.

### *Mining*

From a report by the Government Geologist, it is learned that copper indications are common in the Presidency, there being scarcely a cay on which some malachite strains cannot be found. Mineralization is most prominent on the island of Virgin Gorda where copper ores including native copper were raised from an old mine last operated in 1867. This mine deserves renewed investigation, particularly as the copper is evidently accompanied by a strong showing of molybdenite. Private mining concerns have shown interest in prospecting in the Presidency, and before the end of the next biennial period the mining prospects of the Presidency should definitely be established.

### *Manufacturing Industries*

*Rum* is manufactured at eight small distilleries in Tortola. Their machinery is very simple, in some instances almost primitive, and the rum is distilled direct from the fermented juice of the sugar-cane. No sugar is produced. Most of the rum is consumed locally, but small quantities are sent to St. Thomas. There are no statistics of production.

*Building materials.* The increasing use of cement as a building material led in 1952 to the establishment of a small local industry devoted to the manufacture of hollow concrete blocks for building. The enterprise did a thriving business in a small way, particularly with the American island of St. John. With the advent in 1954 of regular communication by schooner between St. John and Puerto Rico there was a slump in the local export trade owing to the fact that blocks could be obtained cheaper from Puerto Rico.

*Slipper factory.* In 1953, a slipper factory was established in Road Town. The company sent in the material from overseas and over 150 persons were taught crocheting and slipper making. From the beginning the industry was handicapped by American customs regulations and the workers had on several occasions to suspend activities. By the end of 1953, however, 3,500 pairs of slippers had been produced. Production in 1954 totalled 15,774 pairs.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

### ANTIGUA

#### *Education*

The Inspector of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Education Department and is assisted by an Assistant Inspector of Schools, a Supervisor of Handcraft Teaching, a Supervisor of Home Economics, and a School Attendance Officer. The functions of the Education Department include responsibility for the organisation, staffing, and equipping of all Government primary (elementary) schools; the supervision, inspection, and examination of these schools; the provision of grants and qualified teachers for secondary schools; and the control of Government expenditure on education.

Policy during the period under review was directed towards the development of post-primary education, that is, a sound general education with a proper balance of academic and practical subjects for pupils between the ages of 12 and 16. It is felt that this type of education is necessary as being closely related to the needs and circumstances of the island.

*Primary and Secondary Education.* The aim of primary education is to provide for all children between the ages of 6 and 12 a thorough curriculum designed to make them literate and to inculcate in them a sense of duty, responsibility and discipline, and to train them in good habits.

Primary education is provided in Government schools and in private or non-assisted schools. All such schools, with the exception of two, are co-educational. Education in Government schools is free, and pupils are admitted between the ages of 5 and 16 without discrimination. Each Government school is organised on the basis of age and ability as follows:

- (i) Infant Department for pupils aged 5—7;
- (ii) Junior or Primary Department for pupils aged 7 plus to 12;
- (iii) Senior or Post-Primary Department for pupils aged 12 plus to 16.

The age-groups of each department are further sub-divided to accommodate pupils varying in ability.

Attendance of pupils between the ages of 5 and 13 is enforced in districts where accommodation is adequate. The policy is to provide sufficient accommodation in the schools so that eventually compulsory education between the ages of 5 and 12 may be introduced in all districts. The steady increase in the child population, however, makes it unlikely that compulsory education will always be a practical possibility unless some expedient, such as the double shift system of attendance, is adopted in districts where schools become overcrowded.

Secondary education is provided in grant-aided and in non-assisted secondary schools (which are under the management of governing bodies on which Government is represented), and in post-primary departments of Government primary schools. The secondary schools cater for pupils between the ages of 9 and 19 and have preparatory departments for children from 5—9.

Children in Government and private primary schools qualify for entry to the secondary schools by passing the Secondary Schools' Entrance Examination or by winning scholarships awarded annually by the Government on the results of a competitive examination arranged by the Education Department. At the end of 1954, Government scholarship holders in the secondary schools numbered 66.

*Post-Secondary and Teacher Training.* In the field of technical education some progress has been made with the introduction of an organised apprenticeship system to which reference is made in Chapter 2 of this report.

Opportunities for post-secondary education are offered by the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica and its Extra-Mural Department in Antigua.

Training of primary school teachers continued in Antigua at the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College and at the Government Teachers' Training College in Trinidad in 1953 and 1954. The two colleges provided courses of two years' duration. The minimum qualification for admission to both colleges is either the Cambridge Senior School Certificate or its equivalent. Colonial Development and Welfare grants for the training of teachers in 1953 and 1954 were \$4,226 and \$1,266 respectively. Thirteen teachers were attending training centres—10 at Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College and three at the Government Teachers' Training College in Trinidad. An average of five trained teachers enter the schools annually.

Short concentrated courses in practical subjects such as handicraft, housecraft, bookbinding, woodwork, and infant methods were arranged locally for teachers by the Education Department. Thirty-eight teachers in 1953 and 50 in 1954 benefited from these courses.

*Expenditure.* In 1953 and 1954 the following provision for education was included in the Estimates:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Administration, Primary and Post-Primary Schools . . . . .	269,751	282,520
Secondary Schools, Presidential Scholarship to University College of the West Indies and Training of Teachers . . . .	42,920	43,569

Included in the figures shown under Administration, Primary and Post-Primary schools, is the sum of \$240,769 representing salaries of teachers and \$12,720 covering the cost of Teacher Training and rents for school houses and teachers' residences. The expenditure on

secondary schools represents grants-in-aid, *ex gratia* awards, and salaries of the Headmaster of the Antigua Grammar School, the Headmistress of the Antigua Girls' High School and two other graduate assistants.

*Statistics.* The following table shows the existing numbers and types of Government and private schools, with total enrolment and numbers of teachers employed:

<i>Numbers and types of schools</i>	<i>Number of children enrolled</i>	<i>Number of teachers employed</i>
30 Government Primary Schools . . .	9,981	247
Non-assisted Primary Schools . . .	972	27
4 grant-aided Secondary Schools . . .	964	47
2 non-assisted Secondary Schools . . .	309	13

*Higher and Adult Education.* During the period under review three students at the University College of the West Indies completed Degree Courses in Science, Arts, and Medicine respectively; two others were pursuing medical courses and another three, including two Government scholarship holders, were reading for the B.A. Degree. A Leeward Islands Scholarship winner successfully completed a medical course in the United Kingdom and returned to Antigua to assume duties as resident physician at the Holberton Hospital. Five holders of scholarships awarded by the Caribbean Commission completed courses—two in electricity, two in the building trades and one in baking—at the Vocational Metropolitan School in Puerto Rico. It is estimated that approximately fifteen other private students were taking University courses in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America.

Adult education was organised through the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies and the General Improvement Organisation. The former held classes in Spanish, oral French, physics, choral music, mathematics and English language, while the latter conducted classes in English language and English literature, arithmetic, hygiene and general knowledge. The night classes conducted by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union concentrated on preparing students for the General Certificate of Education of the University of London. The Central Public Library Service, with its rural branch in the centre of the island, improved and expanded its services during the period under review.

*Principal Events.* The principal events during the period under review were:

- (i) the erection of three new schools to provide additional accommodation for 1,110 pupils, and the start of two others to accommodate an additional 900 pupils. Funds for the buildings were provided by grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act;

- (ii) appreciable progress made in the reorganisation and development of the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College and the training of teachers generally;
- (iii) the introduction of a post-primary school leaving certificate for pupils who successfully completed the post-primary school course;
- (iv) the introduction of an improved type of teaching of infants resulting from the Infant Method courses arranged locally for teachers;
- (v) considerable progress made, not only in the teaching of practical subjects such as home economics, woodwork, sewing, handcraft and gardening, but also in subjects such as English language, English literature and arithmetic as reflected in the marked improvements shown in the Certificate Examination results and the comprehensive Primary Schools' Exhibitions held in 1953 and 1954;
- (vi) the establishment of school libraries and parent-teacher committees in several school districts;
- (vii) the assumption by Government of full responsibility for the Barbuda School with consequent improvements in the staffing, standard of teaching, and attainments of the school;
- (viii) improvement in the staffing of the grant-aided secondary schools by Government appointing two University graduates to assist with the teaching of the upper forms of those schools and student teachers at the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College; and,
- (ix) the re-introduction of the teaching of science (chemistry and physics) in the aided secondary schools made possible by the provision of a new laboratory erected in 1953 by a Government grant of \$9,000, to serve all the secondary schools and Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College.

### *Public health*

The year 1953 was primarily notable for the great amount of time devoted to considering recommendations made earlier for the reorganisation of various institutions and the general work of the Medical Department, to implementing some of those recommendations or modifications of them, and generally to planning for reorganisation of the whole Department. The most notable features of 1953 in health and sanitation were (a) the widespread epidemic of measles, of which nearly 1,800 cases were notified, and (b) the prolonged drought with its disastrous effects on water supplies and the consequent increase in gastro-intestinal diseases.

Although the drought of 1953 continued well into 1954, the Presidency was spared from epidemic disease of any kind, though some degree of



economic hardship and lack of fresh foodstuffs resulted in an increase in deficiency conditions. In spite of this, the general health of the population remained good, the crude death rate being only 10·57 per thousand. The year 1954 saw some fulfilment of the planning undertaken in 1953, both in the provision of buildings and in reorganisation and, while many high hopes were not fulfilled, 1954 was on the whole a year of considerable progress.

## Vital Statistics

	1953	1954
Mean population . . . . .	48,892	50,076
Natural increase . . . . .	1,088	1,128
Natural increase rate (per 1,000) . . . . .	22·2	22·4
Live birth rate (per 1,000) . . . . .	34·46	33·0
Death rate (per 1,000) . . . . .	12·23	10·57
Infant death rate (per 1,000 live births) . . . . .	93·6	87·9
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 live births) . . . . .	36·0	30·7

The infant death rate remains high at 87·9 per 1,000 and the still-birth rate also remains comparatively high.

An epidemic of measles swept through the island during the early part of 1953. A total of 1,782 cases were notified, but only two deaths were directly attributable to measles. Some 1,200 cases of influenza were also notified during the early part of the year but it was fortunately mild and no deaths were attributed to it. Deaths from cardiovascular diseases, though less than in 1952, still remained the principal cause of deaths. Deaths from gastro-enteritis were more than double the number in 1952 but there is little doubt that the increased incidence was associated with the diminution of water supplies due to the prolonged drought. Avitaminosis and other deficiency states showed a threefold increase when compared with 1952 but, in this case also, the increase can be attributed directly to the prolonged drought and the insufficiency of fresh foodstuffs. Only one case of malaria was diagnosed in 1953 and that in a visitor from another island; the number of cases in 1949 totalled 38. New cases of tuberculosis, all respiratory, numbered 29 in 1953 compared with 24 in 1952. Provision of special wards for this disease at the Holberton Hospital in 1953 marks a great step forward in treatment. There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of typhoid resulting from unsatisfactory water supplies in consequence of the drought. There were 576 new cases of venereal disease in 1953. Treatment is given at the health centres and is free.

In 1954, there were no epidemics of any communicable disease. Cardiovascular diseases, though considerably less than in 1953, still remained the principal cause of deaths. Though drought conditions persisted well into 1954, there were 16 fewer deaths from gastro-enteritis than in 1953; of the 61 cases, 44 were infants under one year of age.



The following table shows the numbers of deaths from principal causes in 1953 and 1954:

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	
	1953	1954
1. Cardio-vascular lesions including those of central nervous system . . . . .	149	113
2. Gastro-enteritis . . . . .	77	61
3. Broncho-pneumonia . . . . .	46	37
4. Ill-defined diseases peculiar to infancy and immaturity . . . . .	48	45
5. Senility . . . . .	35	42
6. Cancer (all forms) . . . . .	29	42
7. Avitaminosis and deficiency states. . . . .	25	21
8. Accidents and violence. . . . .	12	11
9. Chronic nephritis . . . . .	15	14
10. Pulmonary tuberculosis . . . . .	19	9

Deaths from all causes totalled 599 in 1953 (273 male and 326 female), and 532 in 1954 (244 male and 288 female).

*Medical Department.* There was no striking change or expansion in personnel or policy; the only increase in establishment was the appointment of a Resident Medical Officer at the Holberton Hospital. The service is based on part-time Government Officers with the privilege of private practice. Specialist services available are surgery, ophthalmology and psychiatry. The institutions, namely the Mental Hospital, Leper Home, Home for the Aged and Infirm, and the urban Public Health Centre remained under the direct supervision of a full-time Medical Officer. There was one Government Dental Surgeon, and one private medical practitioner.

*Public Health and Sanitation.* The two bodies responsible, the Country Board of Health for rural areas, and the City Commissioners for the urban area, continued to function as separate bodies but are to be integrated at the beginning of 1955 into a Central Board of Health responsible for the whole island. Considerable progress has been made during the period under review in improved sanitary services and water supplies, and the annual Homes, Families and Gardens Festival continues to be popular and to help in enlisting the co-operation of the population in matters affecting public health.

The three Public Health Centres, one urban and two rural, continued to function satisfactorily and to expand their activities. They provide maternity, child health, venereal disease and dental clinics, and are used for mass inoculations against typhoid. The Superintendent of Public Health Nurses is also responsible for the three crèches where small children are looked after during the daytime while their mothers are at work.

The main non-routine public health measure carried out during the period was the survey in 1953 of the incidence of *aedes aegypti* and the island-wide spraying campaign in 1954. The *aedes* index was found to

be dangerously high; the spraying campaign was completed in December, 1954. Its success or otherwise will be assessed in 1955.

*Training of Staff.* One Sanitary Inspector obtained the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Jamaica in 1953. One Sanitary Inspector was awarded a W.H.O. scholarship in insect control, the course being held in Trinidad. One Nursing Sister was taking a one-year Hospital Administration course in England and two Public Health Nurses were sent to Jamaica in 1954 for a ten-month course leading to the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. One Senior Dispenser took a nine-month course in radiography in Jamaica. Local courses were held for Sanitary Inspectors.

*New buildings.* There were completed three quarters for District Nurses in the villages; quarters for the Resident Medical Officer at the Holberton Hospital; offices for the Medical Officer at the Leper Home; quarters for one Medical Officer in the country districts; a mental observation ward; and a dispensary in Barbuda. In addition, extensive repairs and renovations were undertaken in respect of buildings at the Holberton Hospital, the Mental Hospital, the Leper Home, dispensaries and crèches. The building of a new Public Health Centre, dispensary and offices in St. John's was also begun.

### *Expenditure*

Medical and Public Health Services (Recurrent) were:—

	1953	1954
<i>Medical General</i>	\$	\$
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	62,592	82,885
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	38,598	42,275
<i>Hospital</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	77,760	90,877
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	113,497	116,238
<i>Mental Hospital</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	29,677	38,560
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	42,522	44,618
<i>Leper Home</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	7,334	7,671
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	20,638	23,200
<i>Country Board of Health</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	15,371	15,389
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	39,997	39,519
<i>Municipal</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	32,059	31,811
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	154,707	119,670
<i>Home for Aged and Infirm</i>		
(i) Personal Emoluments . . . . .	6,472	8,334
(ii) Other charges . . . . .	33,109	32,289
<i>Grants-in-Aid</i>		
Blind Welfare and Nursery . . . . .	1,680	1,680
	<u>\$676,013</u>	<u>\$695,016</u>

*Housing and Town Planning*

The Central Housing and Planning Authority continued its hurricane rehousing programme in existing villages and new extensions. The progress of the "aided self-help" projects started at the villages of All Saints and Five Islands in 1952 was somewhat disappointing; work was very slow and for a period actually came to a stand-still at Five Islands. Interest was revived after a short period, however, and the All Saints project was almost complete by the end of 1954. Although this method of construction has its shortcomings, it is for the present the only practicable method of tackling the low-cost housing problem. Frequent meetings were held in various villages in 1953 and four new "aided self-help" groups, with a total of 48 members were formed in the villages of Willikies, Newfield and Liberta. Work progressed steadily and in 1954 two more groups were started—another in Willikies and one in Freetown. The actual number of houses under construction in December, 1954, was 70, when all houses had reached beam height. At Five Islands the houses all reached beam height and three were roofed.

Experiments were made with a new type of roof construction on the Willikies "aided self-help" project. In this experiment the cement block house was finished with a gable cement roof instead of the usual flat cement roof, which is not very popular among the people; indeed, several members of the groups have purchased galvanised iron for their houses instead. The cement gable roof experiment achieved remarkable success and there was then a fairly big demand for it among the other groups.

The Authority continued to issue materials for construction by "self-help", and by December, 1954, the position under the hurricane rehousing programme was as follows:

"Self-help"—completed	1,130
"Aided self-help"—completed	15
"Aided self-help"—not completed	81
Houses built by the Central Authority	122
	<hr/>
	1,348

In issuing materials for "self-help" cases, care was taken to concentrate on the villages where, because of the small number of cases, "aided self-help" was found to be impracticable.

The total expenditure on the hurricane rehousing programme to December, 1954, was \$626,175. The administrative expenses of the programme during 1954 were provided by a grant of \$21,120 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D. 1893A. The actual expenditure incurred was \$19,809, and is included in the total shown above.

The Garlings Slum Clearance Scheme, for which approval was granted in December, 1952, commenced early in 1953. Work proceeded steadily on the Ottos New Development—roads were built and

pipe-borne water laid in the area, after which the Authority constructed 100 cement block houses, size 10 ft. by 19 ft., with 2 rooms, to house the families from Garling's land whose dwellings had to be demolished. In addition to the houses, 76 two-compartment and 12 four-compartment latrines, and four communal bathrooms, were built in the area. Attention was next concentrated on the removal of surplus wooden houses from Garling's area to Ottos, demarcating plots in Garling's and re-aligning remaining houses in the area. By December, 1954, a total of 151 families had been settled at Ottos—86 in the new cement block houses and 65 in wooden houses removed from Garling's and repaired; 123 houses were re-aligned in Garling's area itself—repairs being started on 68. Expenditure on the scheme to the end of 1954 totalled \$207,269.

By December, 1954, the construction programme of the Labour Welfare Fund Committee had reached a total of 112 houses and 111 latrines at a total expenditure of \$154,957; 458 persons had received loans for building and repairs totalling \$154,444.

During the period under review, the Central Housing and Planning Authority obtained land in eight more villages for further extensions, but development could be started in only four. In August, 1954, 65 acres at a cost of \$49,920 were obtained on the outskirts of St. John's for town extension, and a scheme under the Town and Country Planning Ordinance was prepared for building control. The objects of this scheme are to develop the area as a housing estate with a view to relieving the pressing need for housing sites for people living in an area of St. John's where slum conditions exist, and also to provide building plots for people of medium incomes who otherwise find it difficult to obtain suitable housing sites. By December, 1954, \$2,514 had been received as deposits on plots.

### *Social Welfare*

The Social Welfare Department was absorbed into the central Administration and its activities, which are mainly concerned with community development, are now supervised by the Assistant Administrative Secretary who deals with social services.

Every encouragement was given to the community councils in the villages; these undertook such "self-help" projects as village cleaning and general improvements, road building and latrine building. Concerts, dances, excursions, film-shows, and debates were arranged in order to raise funds for community purposes.

The 1954 Homes, Families and Gardens Festival proved an even greater success than its predecessors. The festival is designed to encourage the people to raise their standards of living by improving their houses and homes, by providing themselves with more and better foods, by cultivating more hygienic habits, and by inspiring a sense of pride and a spirit of self-help amongst themselves. It brings together for a brief but intensive period each year all classes and races interested in community development and welfare. A trophy is awarded annually

for the best village, marks being given for such things as self-help projects, cleanliness, school attendance, absence of crime, etc.

A Committee was set up to supervise the mobile cinema service. During 1954, 78 film shows were given, of which three took place in Barbuda.

One of the main features of community development during the period under review was the contribution made by the Youth Welfare Council. It was greatly assisted in its activities by the opening in April, 1953, of the Princess Elizabeth Hall, funds for the building of which were provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. Some of the funds were also used in the purchase of sports and camping equipment.

Funds provided for the relief of destitution during the period under review were as follows:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Outdoor pauper relief . . . . .	32,000	39,500
Assistance to discharged lepers . . . . .	4,560	4,560
Housing loans to discharged lepers . . . . .	4,000	4,000
Assistance to discharged lunatics . . . . .	500	500
Funeral expenses (paupers) . . . . .	1,400	1,400
	<u>\$42,460</u>	<u>\$49,960</u>

The average number of persons on the relief register during the two years was 1,280 (660 adults and 620 children) and the allowances received averaged \$1 per fortnight. Discharged lepers received \$3·84, discharged lunatics \$1 and blind persons \$1·92 per fortnight. This service was administered by the Board of Guardians for the Poor.

The local branch of the British Red Cross Society has been expanding its welfare work. Its depot in St. John's was opened on week days and many applications for clothing, food-vouchers, special medicines and other forms of relief have been met.

At the Fiennes Institution, for the care of the aged, an average of 130 inmates (60 males and 70 females) were maintained during the period. The staff of the Institution consisted of a Master, a Charge Nurse, five Attendants and five servants. The Medical Officer, Institutions, paid regular visits, treated cases in need of medical attention, and generally assisted with the administration of the Institution.

During the period very good work was done at the Training Centre for the blind operated by the Red Cross Society and, following a visit by the Director of the British Empire Society for the Blind, a "Friends of the Blind" Society was started. Three children have been sent to the School for the Blind in Trinidad.

In 1953 the Juvenile Courts dealt with 80 cases (42 less than in 1952); in 1954, 62 cases were dealt with. This was the lowest number in seven years; half the number of cases were either disposed of by reprimand

or were dismissed. The Courts made use of the services of the local Salvation Army Officer as part-time Probationer Officer.

There was a roll of 25 at the Training School for Boys in 1953 and 22 in 1954.

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

##### *Education*

Primary and senior education are under the management of the Inspector of Schools who is also Educational District Officer for St. Kitts. He is assisted in Nevis and Anguilla by two part-time Educational District Officers. The secondary schools are under the management of their respective Principals who communicate direct with the Administrator on matters affecting their schools. The primary schools are inspected annually and reports are forwarded to the teachers in charge for guidance and as a means of effecting improvements where necessary.

Educational policy has been in general directed towards the gradual reorganisation of the present system in order to relate education more nearly to the needs of a West Indian community, which have been postulated as being:

- (a) the good use of the land and the conservation of the soil;
- (b) a stable family economy, self-sufficient to the degree that it will not be disrupted by changes in production for export;
- (c) efficient production for export;
- (d) a literate people;
- (e) development of leadership through clubs, etc.; and,
- (f) good home making through practical subjects.

Policy is being specifically directed towards the provision of:—

- (a) school places, sufficient to give schooling to all children of the compulsory school age;
- (b) the selection and training of a greater number of teachers for service in the schools;
- (c) teachers and schools, to the extent which resources permit, for adolescent children within the general school age, giving a general education based on and made realistic by practical activities;
- (d) opportunities for vocational and professional training regulated by the available resources;
- (e) opportunities for adult education;
- (f) economical administration of these services;
- (g) the cultivation of school garden plots where land is available—tools and seeds being supplied by Government; and,
- (h) the inculcation of proper health habits.

Primary education is free for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 plus and is compulsory for pupils up to 13 years of age. The cost is met from Government funds. Parent-Teachers' Associations exist in several school areas and every effort is being made to get children to attend school regularly. Schemes of work have been instituted and curricula and time-tables remodelled.

Very modest fees are charged at the Government Secondary Schools, and a reasonable proportion of the places available are free of cost. Children are specially selected for the free places by examination and interview.

*Expenditure.* The estimated cost of education in 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
<i>Recurrent expenditure</i>		
Administration . . . . .	16,244	19,186
Primary and Senior . . . . .	314,862	329,093
Secondary . . . . .	61,694	64,055
<i>Capital expenditure</i>		
New buildings . . . . .	108,345	20,307·61
	<hr/> \$501,145	<hr/> \$432,641·61

In 1953, 11·6 per cent of the available funds were earmarked for education and, in 1954, 9·8 per cent.

*Pre-primary schools.* A Play Centre in Basseterre for 24 children was maintained from Government funds, while in the rural areas the Methodist Church has two play centres and the Moravian Church has one. These two denominations received small grants-in-aid.

*Primary schools.* There were 33 Primary schools in the Presidency with an enrolment of 10,928 pupils for whom education was entirely free; 366 teachers were employed in these schools. The school population has increased very rapidly in recent years so that in most schools there was much overcrowding. The new school building programme should greatly alleviate this condition. Milk is provided in all primary schools, and UNICEF has generously given a large supply for free distribution.

*Secondary modern schools.* One new school was built and properly equipped and one was reconstructed and equipped. One teacher who was specially trained in the United Kingdom is now back in the Presidency and one is now in the United Kingdom receiving similar training. It is proposed further to develop this phase of education. A greater supply of text books and equipment has been made available, and the curriculum covers the basic subjects of reading, writing and

arithmetic, together with history, geography, moral instruction, tropical hygiene, elementary science, singing and physical exercises. In addition, practical activities such as straw plaiting and weaving, needlework for girls, and woodwork and gardening for boys, are included in the system of instruction. The teachers are encouraged to arouse the interest of the children in their various communities, and organised games are played in most schools, with inter-school competitions in cricket and netball.

*Secondary schools.* In St. Kitts there are separate Government schools for boys and girls, and a mixed denominational school. In Nevis and Anguilla, there are mixed schools.

Construction of the new Boys' Grammar School for St. Kitts was begun late in 1954 and it was hoped that this new educational centre would be ready by the end of 1955. Courses in the Secondary Schools lead to the Overseas School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations of Cambridge University.

The main events of the period were the opening of a Secondary school in Anguilla and a Senior school in Nevis. The complete reorganisation of the Boys' Grammar School in St. Kitts in respect of admission standards, re-grouping of students in classes and the terminal and annual testing of pupils has greatly enhanced the work of this school. Examination results, particularly at the level of the Overseas Higher School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University, continued to be satisfactory. The Leeward Islands' scholarship was won by a pupil of this school in 1953.

*Higher Education.* The Government contributed to the cost of the University College of the West Indies. This Presidency also awarded two scholarships to the University College and students could also compete for the annual Leeward Islands Scholarship and for three Colony agricultural scholarships, tenable at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad.

*Teacher-training Institutions.* The Presidency contributed annually a substantial sum to the Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College at Antigua where its female Primary School Teachers received training. Two places for male teachers were secured at Erdiston Training College in Barbados in 1954 and two at the Trinidad Training College. Two male teachers received training in the United Kingdom as a result of grants from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. Four female teachers received training in housecraft in Jamaica. With assistance from the Caribbean Commission, a male teacher and a female teacher received training in woodwork and home economics respectively in Puerto Rico.

Locally arranged courses continued to be held in methods of teaching infant and junior school pupils.

*Adult Education.* There is at present no Government sponsored system of adult education, with the exception of film shows and health talks arranged by the Education and Public Health Departments. Rural libraries have been established in several places and several



Community Councils have reading rooms with free literature. Night schools were, however, carried on voluntarily by teachers in many districts throughout the Presidency. The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies ran adult classes in English, Latin, mathematics and political science.

*School Buildings and Equipment.* Nine of the 33 Government primary schools were housed in buildings which are the property of Government. Six of these are very fine new schools built with funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act since 1945. The remaining schools are rented from various religious denominations. For the most part, school buildings are overcrowded, but every effort is being made to build new schools and to supply more furniture as far as resources permit. In addition, special grants have been made to the denominations for the repair and improvement of their buildings. Two new centres for the teaching of domestic science were opened in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Government purchased a school building and a teachers' house from the Methodist Church. A teacher's house was erected at Trinity School, St. Kitts. Proper school latrines were built at rented schools from Government funds.

Clubs of a general nature have now become a regular feature of the primary schools. The activities of these are varied and include thrift societies, literary activities, nature study walks, indoor games, etc. The management of the clubs is now largely carried out by the pupils themselves, thereby giving them training in leadership. A Woodwork Centre was opened in Basseterre, on the return of a teacher from the Vocational Trade School in Puerto Rico; the work in light handicrafts has shown very great improvement. Two fully qualified Instructresses made regular visits to schools and groups in rural areas and gave advice. A group of adolescent females work under the supervision of one of the Instructresses and make articles which find a ready market locally and abroad.

The use of the 16 mm. film projector and film strips have continued. A tape recording machine has proved very educative and entertaining to the pupils of the Primary and Secondary schools. The Information Department of the Colonial Office continued to supply films and film strips, and also sent a British newsreel each week by air.

*Education Statistics.* The number of children of school age is estimated at 14,225.

	<i>Number of schools</i>					
	<i>Public Schools</i>			<i>Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)</i>		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Mixed</i>
Primary	3	3	27	—	—	3
Secondary	1	1	2	—	—	1

	<i>Number of teachers</i>			
	<i>Public Schools</i>		<i>Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Primary Schools . .	124	242	1	16
Secondary Schools . .	20	17	—	6

	<i>Number of pupils</i>			
	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
(a) <i>Public Schools:</i>				
Primary Schools . .	5,555	4,157	5,373	4,186
Secondary Schools . .	246	238	374	362
(b) <i>Independent Schools:</i>				
Primary Schools . .	329	287	297	265
Secondary Schools . .	89	87	113	110

### *Public health*

In 1953, the most noteworthy developments were the striking public response to the tuberculosis campaign, the launching of a nutrition programme, and the fact that for the first time on record a year passed without a single death from typhoid fever. In addition, for the first time on record, tuberculosis was not among the ten most common causes of death. Other important features of the year were: the opening of new health centres at Old Road and Dieppe Bay in St. Kitts, and the opening of health outposts at East End and South Hill in Anguilla; the training of staff in surgery, general nursing and midwifery, venereal disease control, sanitary engineering, water supplies, sanitary inspection, food inspection, insect control, B.C.G. vaccination and X-rays, the provision of funds for this training being provided, not only from local revenue, but also from WHO/UNICEF, and under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act; and the intensification of a health education programme.

In 1954, the most striking developments were the facts that the general death rate and the infant death rate were the lowest in the hundred-year-old records of the Presidency, and that there was a striking fall in the reported incidence of diseases of social importance. Other important developments were: the opening of the Alexandra Hospital in Nevis, seriously damaged in the earthquakes of 1950-51 and rebuilt with funds provided by Her Majesty's Government; the completion on the 1st March, 1954, of the anti-tuberculosis campaign, begun on the 23rd November, 1953, (the number of persons tuberculin

tested was 37,533); and the achievement of a number of the main objectives of the nutrition programme, including a big expansion of the schools' feeding programme. The training of staff and the health education programme were continued.

## VITAL STATISTICS

	1953	1954
Population (31st December) . . . . .	52,057	53,598
Births . . . . .	1,964	2,226
Birth rate per 1,000 . . . . .	38.09	42.13
Stillbirths . . . . .	78	91
Stillbirth rate per 100 . . . . .	3.9	4.08
Deaths . . . . .	683	589
Crude death rate per 1,000 . . . . .	13.23	11.13
Deaths under 1 year . . . . .	166	155
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . . .	84.52	69.6

*Deaths from principal causes.* The following table shows deaths and death rates for the most common causes:

Cause	1953		1954	
	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000	Number of deaths	Death rate per 1,000
Heart disease . . . . .	90	1.76	70	1.32
Diseases of early infancy . . . . .	88	1.70	68	1.28
Apoplexy . . . . .	78	1.51	72	1.36
Cancer . . . . .	52	1.00	37	0.70
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis . . . . .	51	0.98	66	1.25
Respiratory diseases . . . . .	34	0.65	45	0.86
Deficiency diseases . . . . .	32	0.62	22	0.40
Senility . . . . .	30	0.58	26	0.48
Syphilis . . . . .	26	0.50	16	0.30
Nephritis . . . . .	20	0.38	18	0.34
Tuberculosis . . . . .	19	0.36	19	0.35
Dysentery . . . . .	15	0.27	3	0.06
Maternal deaths . . . . .	9	4.58*	10	4.49*

\* per 1,000 live births.

The following table sets out the major services, the problems arising in respect of each and the proposed methods of dealing with the problems:

Service	Major Problem	Programme
Environmental sanitation	Contaminated water supply. Many houses have no privy. Fly breeding. Contamination of milk and other foods. Inadequate housing and overcrowding.	Programme submitted to UNICEF and WHO: improved water supply. Supervision of sources. Regular sampling. Private latrine programme. Improved disposal of waste. Insect control (DDT). Milk and food sanitation.

<i>Service</i>	<i>Major Problem</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Health education	Ignorance of elementary sanitation, personal hygiene, infant care, nutrition, and nature of disease.	Work of Public Health Nurses and Sanitary Inspectors. Talks by trained staff. Film shows. Press releases. Leaflets. Posters. Joint meetings of Education and Health Staff. Boards of Health.
Nutrition ...	Deaths and general ill-health from nutritional causes. Diets deficient in protein, vitamins A & B complex, calcium and iron.	Home production of green and yellow vegetables. Scientific investigation. Education of adults and the young. UNICEF skimmed milk and U.K. surplus evaporated milk feeding programmes.
Maternal and child health	High infant death rate from bad sanitation and wrong and filthy feeding. Untrained midwives. Eclampsia.	Environmental sanitation. Nutrition programme. Prenatal and child welfare clinics of Public Health Nurses. Training of Midwives.
School health ...	Uncleanliness, malnutrition, dental caries, ulcers, yaws, ignorance of hygiene. Overcrowded and insanitary school premises.	Visits by Public Health Nurses. Nutrition programme: milk, school gardening, school dental service, periodic eye testing. Monthly joint meetings of Health and Education Staff. UNICEF aid with sanitary facilities in schools.
Mental Health ...	Psychoneuroses. Obsolete legislation. Little treatment.	Work of Public Health Nurses. Modern legislation. Electroconvulsive therapy.
Communicable diseases	Diseases of insanitation. Tuberculosis. Venereal diseases and yaws. Leprosy.	Environmental sanitation. Immunisation. Case finding. Isolation.
Tuberculosis control	Several thousands of tuberculin-positive persons awaiting X-ray. Lack of specialist service.	Early finding and hospitalization of as many infectious cases as possible and treatment of remainder at home. B.C.G. vaccination. Mass radiography. Contact tracing.
Venereal disease .	Syphilis. Yaws . . . .	Prompt and effective treatment and instruction at free clinics. Contact tracing. UNICEF/WHO house-to-house single-injection penicillin campaign.
Dental health .	Dental caries. Public ignorance and apathy.	More pre-school dentistry. Gradual abolition of present policy of mass extraction on adults.

*Medical Department and policy.* The medical and health services are provided entirely by the Government. They are administered by a Senior Medical Officer who is Chairman of the Central Board of Health, which directs the work of the five local Boards of Health. The Health Department is organised into three main divisions—administration,

hospitals, and district services, which comprise medical, dental, dispensing, public health nursing, and sanitation services.

The defined functions of the Department are the care of the sick; the maintenance of institutions for the aged and infirm; the recording of statistics for planning preventive work; the supervision of the health of expectant mothers and children; the improvement of nutritional health, sanitary surroundings, mental health and dental health; the control of communicable diseases; the development of services to control chronic diseases; the development of laboratory facilities; the training of staff; and the dissemination of health information to the public.

There are 12 registered medical practitioners, of whom 11 are Government officers, and one is a private practitioner; seven of the Government Medical Officers are allowed private practice. There are four nurses with senior training, 31 certificated nurses, 47 student nurses, four midwives with senior training, 44 certificated midwives, 14 sanitary inspectors, four laboratory and X-ray technicians and eight pharmacists employed by the Government. In addition there are 33 private certificated nurses, 49 private certificated midwives and 24 private pharmacists.

#### Expenditure—Hospitals and Institutions

	1953 <i>Actual</i> \$	1954 <i>Estimated</i> \$
Cunningham Hospital . . . . .	158,161·59	160,095·00
Alexandra Hospital . . . . .	58,674·30	65,560·00
Pogson Hospital . . . . .	9,119·11	8,626·00
Cottage Hospital . . . . .	9,657·07	9,480·00
Leprosarium . . . . .	21,548·11	20,377·00
Mental Patients . . . . .	17,173·86	21,309·00
Infirmaries . . . . .	24,500·57	26,985·00
Total . . . . .	\$298,834·61	\$312,432·00
Public Health . . . . .	\$279,124·01	\$278,738·00
Total expenditure of Health Department	\$577,958·62	\$591,170·00
Expenditure by Public Works Department on health projects . . . . .	37,728·62	28,800·00
Total expenditure from Presidential funds	\$615,687·24	\$619,970·00
Assistance from United Kingdom Government . . . . .	61,566·73	2,000·00
Assistance from International organisations . . . . .	4,600·00	30,200·00

	1953 Actual \$	1954 Estimated \$
Total expenditure from all sources on		
Public Health . . . . .	\$681,853·97	\$652,170·00
Per capita expenditure on public health . . . . .	12·86	12·30
Recurrent . . . . .	\$532,339·75	\$553,842·00
Capital . . . . .	\$149,514·22	\$ 98,328·00
Percentage of health expenditure to total budget . . . . .	14·46	13·55

*Hospitals.* There are two general hospitals, equipped to deal adequately with all general medical and surgical cases, the Cunningham Hospital (116 beds) in St. Kitts, and the Alexandra Hospital (40 beds) in Nevis. There are, in addition, two cottage hospitals or infirmaries with 24 beds.

The Cunningham Hospital is under the charge of a whole-time Medical Superintendent, qualified in surgery. He is also in charge of the Cardin Home, the main institution for the care of the aged and infirm, where there are five rooms for the temporary care of mental patients awaiting transfer to the mental hospital in Antigua. The Cunningham Hospital is the principal centre for the training of nurses and dispensers, and the main laboratory is there. The other hospitals and institutions (total capacity 35), and also a leprosarium (19 patients) are under the care of District Medical Officers. The various hospitals have accommodation for about one-fifth of all confinements.

*District Services.* Apart from the seven District Medical Officers, who furnish free medical attention to the children of workers and certain other groups, a combined service of medical care and preventive medicine is provided by a chain of 22 health centres and outposts throughout the three islands of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. Each rural health centre is staffed by a District Medical Officer, a Public Health Nurse and a Midwife. Two dentists attend to children, expectant mothers and labourers. There are 13 sanitary districts in the Presidency, each with its own Sanitary Inspector. Serving under the Chief Sanitary Inspector, there are a Supervising Sanitary Inspector and eight Sanitary Inspectors in St. Kitts, a Supervising Sanitary Inspector and three Sanitary Inspectors in Nevis and one Sanitary Inspector in Anguilla.

#### *Housing and town planning*

There were no significant changes in the housing needs and problems of the Presidency. In the rural areas of St. Kitts, expansion of existing villages is restricted by the lack of available building sites. Throughout the Presidency many of the wooden houses are structurally unsound owing to termites and the ravages of weather on the untreated wood. A considerable number of "trash" houses—made of local wood frames covered with sugar cane leaves—unfortunately still exist. Some villages are still badly sited, and many are inadequately provided with roads, water supplies, drains and other services. In Basseterre, the demand for

houses and house lots far exceeds the number available. In general, the standard of housing in St. Kitts is still lower than in Nevis and Anguilla. All of these problems were vigorously tackled by the Central Housing and Planning Authority, with the co-operation of other Government Departments, local land owners and private builders, during the years under review.

In the rural areas of St. Kitts, the village of Sadlers was redeveloped and expanded; in three years the number of houses has been increased from 140 to 206, and roads, drains and improved water supplies have been installed. At Molyneux a new village of 102 building lots was developed on a good open site; of these lots, 66 were used for houses brought from bad sites in a nearby village, 28 for new houses and the remaining eight for combined houses and shops. A similar village of 67 building lots has been developed at Lodge. At both of these villages oiled roads, piped water supplies and other services have been installed.

The programme for providing new concrete block houses by the "aided self-help" method continues to expand, though progress is limited by lack of suitably developed sites, and difficulties of land tenure. These houses are now built to a standard design of two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, shower, porch and outside latrine. The walls are of hollow concrete blocks, 6 in. thick; floors are of wood in bedrooms and concrete elsewhere, and the roof is the "Arcon" simple purlin type, consisting of tubular steel purlins to which the galvanized iron roofing sheets are bolted. Windows are the tropical louvred steel type. Small two- or three-room sectional wooden houses are manufactured in Basseterre, assembled where required and rented out in cases of urgent need; 25 were built during the period.

In Basseterre, the New Town Slum Clearance Scheme was almost completed at the end of 1954, by which time approximately 100 houses had been removed from the slum area and resited on a properly laid-out site nearby, and 31 others had been demolished. Forty new dwelling units in the form of two-story flatlets were completed and occupied during the period, bringing the total number of dwelling units provided under the scheme to 90.

The housing shortage in Basseterre continued to be acute, but the development by the Central Housing Authority of a new housing estate having 129 building lots in the Greenlands area, together with two privately developed estates, should go some way towards relieving this shortage within the next two years.

The repairing of existing houses by means of loans administered by the Central Housing Authority continued steadily during the period. A total of 536 loans had been made up to the end of 1954, of which 508 were for St. Kitts, 25 for Nevis and 3 for Anguilla. This represents approximately 5 per cent of all the houses in the Presidency, and approximately 7 per cent of all the houses in St. Kitts.

Approximate expenditure from each of the three funds from which the Central Housing Authority is financed for the years 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Presidential funds . . . . .	16,347	68,326
Colonial Development and Welfare funds . . . . .	98,350	57,363
Labour Welfare Fund . . . . .	272,212	435,006
Total . . . . .	<u>\$386,909</u>	<u>\$560,695</u>

The following table shows the number of new houses built in St. Kitts by the Central Housing Authority for the years 1952, 1953 and 1954. (No new houses were built in Nevis and Anguilla):—

	1952	1953	1954	Total for 1953 and 1954
Concrete block houses by Aided Self-Help Schemes, completed . . . . .	8	21	26	47
(In progress) . . . . .	(24)	(37)	(43)	
Urban housing (rental) . . . . .	38	—	40	40
Sectional wooden houses . . . . .	—	12	13	25
Total . . . . .	<u>46</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>112</u>

### *Social Welfare*

The posts of Social Welfare Officer and Youth Officer were abolished with effect from 31st December, 1952, and the post of Relieving Officer was amalgamated with that of Probation Officer, who was responsible for the work of the Department with the assistance of a clerk. The work of the Department was thereafter necessarily confined chiefly to probation and relief work. Apart from the customary relief payments, social work in Nevis and Anguilla was virtually suspended for the time being. In September, 1954, however, the post of Community Development Officer was created and filled. This officer supervises probation, old age pensions and poor relief work and is responsible for youth work and community development.

A reference library is maintained at the Social Welfare Office. Periodicals received from the British Council have been distributed regularly to social groups and institutions, and to reading rooms in several villages.

The usual relief payments to the destitute and disabled were continued, and, at the end of 1954, evaporated milk was distributed to those on relief. With a view to introducing old age pensions, a survey of aged and destitute persons was made in October, 1954, by the Relieving Officer.



Juvenile Courts were held regularly in Basseterre and at Sandy Point with Probation Officers in attendance. Probation orders and investigations were carried out as ordered by the court. Many cases were settled out of court. The Probation and Relieving Officer and the part-time female Salvation Army Probation Officer are members of the Ex-Prisoners' Aid Committee and assisted with after-care work.

## MONTSERRAT

### *Education*

The aim of primary education has been revised with a view to relate it more to the needs of a West Indian community, to promote the physical and moral welfare of the children and to inculcate a sense of duty and of discipline, and school curricula are being gradually re-orientated to achieve these ends. Policy is directed towards (a) the extension of the facilities for more practical work in such subjects as husbandry and school gardening, woodwork, light handicrafts and home economics; (b) teaching children how and where to get information both for profit and pleasure; (c) training children to read fluently and with understanding; (d) teaching children to write clearly and to express their thoughts concisely and accurately; to think clearly and reckon accurately; (e) training in intellectual honesty and the cultivation of an enquiring mind; (f) provision of opportunities for adult education in the form of lectures, demonstrations and film-strip shows; and (g) the selection and training of teachers.

*Primary Schools.* Except for the small efforts undertaken by the Roman Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist Churches, all education is Government controlled. Primary education is under the management of the Inspector of Schools; secondary education is managed by the Principal of the school, assisted by an Advisory Committee.

The primary schools, which are co-educational, were as follows: Government 12, Roman Catholic one, and Seventh Day Adventist one (private). These schools are organised into infant, junior and senior departments but no rigid line distinguishes one classification from another. The age limit is from 5 to 15 years. The grant-aided Roman Catholic School is managed by the Roman Catholic priest stationed in Plymouth. This body also conducted a fee-paying preparatory school. Government primary schools are fully maintained from public funds.

The total enrolment at the end of 1953 was 3,296 and at the end of 1954 was 3,364, the average attendance being respectively 2,865 (87·0 per cent) and 3,025 (89·9 per cent).

Handicraft has become a permanent feature of the primary schools, and every effort has been made to utilise local materials; in 1954, a successful display of work was held. Radio receiving sets have been installed. Twice-weekly programmes for schools—one for children at 2.00 p.m. and one for teachers at 3.00 p.m.—were started in January, 1954. The recordings prepared for Colonial Schools by the B.B.C. are serving a very useful purpose. The notes supplied are used by the teachers to prepare the children for the broadcast, and each broadcast

is followed by discussions and exercises in order to consolidate the subject matter. Through the co-operation of the Librarian a schools circulating library has been instituted. The adequacy of the book-stock in the children's section of the Central Library does not allow this service to be extended to all the primary schools but the use made of the books so far is encouraging. It is hoped that in the not too distant future it will be possible to extend this service to all schools in rural areas.

There is no organised medical service for schools but school children who go to the Health Clinics receive attention from the District Medical Officer or from a Health Nurse. A plan for medical treatment of school children is under consideration. During the period January to November, 1954, all schools were visited once each month by the School Dental Officer. During this period a total of 4,654 teeth were extracted from 2,105 children, and 23 fillings were inserted for 10 children. A sum of \$5,088 from the local budget was used to provide milk and biscuits, etc., for school children. A gift from England of 62 cases each containing 48 tins of evaporated milk made it possible to increase by 25 per cent the number of children fed. In September, 1954, UNICEF allocated money to provide a two-year supply of skim milk powder to supplement the school feeding scheme.

*The Secondary/Senior School.* The Secondary/Senior School in Plymouth, built from funds provided under a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, was completed in 1953. The objective is that the Senior section shall provide for children between the ages of 11 and 16 a general education with a strong infusion of practical subjects founded on husbandry, handicrafts and the needs of the home, and that the Grammar School section shall provide academic education up to the standard of the Higher School Certificate, with opportunities also for practical instruction. Owing to lack of equipment and incompleteness of organisational arrangements, it was not possible to open the Senior School section at that time but plans for the re-organised school consisting of the Grammar School and the Senior School section had been completed by the end of 1954 and the School was expected to function in full from January, 1955. Enrolment at the end of 1953 was 144 and at the end of 1954, 129.

Scholarships held at the Secondary School were as follows:

	1953	1954
Government . . . . .	15	18
St. Anthony's Masonic Lodge . . . . .	3	2
Montserrat Company, Ltd. . . . .	2	1
Old Students Association . . . . .	1	1
Montserrat Progressive Society (New York) . . . . .	1	1
Anonymous . . . . .	2	1
	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 24

*Examination Results.* In 1953, 17 pupils sat for the Cambridge School Certificate and six were successful; three sat for the Cambridge Higher School Certificate and one was successful. In 1954, 18 pupils sat for the School Certificate and three for the Higher School Certificate; there were 16 successful candidates in the former examination and all were successful in the latter.

*Teacher Training.* Primary school teachers are at present accepted for training at Spring Gardens' Training College, Antigua, which has been improved and re-organised to provide better facilities for training, and at Erdiston College in Barbados. During 1953, one teacher completed a two-year course of training at the Government Training College, Trinidad, and two teachers were still in attendance there at the end of that year. During 1954, two teachers received training at the Spring Gardens' Training College, one of them completing the course at the end of the year; one teacher completed a training course at the Government Training College, Trinidad, and another was still in attendance at the end of the year; and one teacher was in training at Erdiston Training College at the close of the year. During the years under review one Secondary school teacher was attending a three-year course leading to an Arts degree at the University College of the West Indies under a Colonial Development and Welfare scholarship scheme.

*Expenditure.* Total expenditure on education for 1953 amounted to \$116,331, of which \$93,941 was spent on primary education and \$22,390 on secondary education. Fees collected in the Secondary School amounted to \$6,119. In 1954, the total estimated expenditure on education was \$117,351 of which \$94,095 was spent on primary education and \$23,256 on secondary education. School fees collected in the Secondary School amounted to \$5,082.

*Library Service.* The Montserrat Public Library was reconstituted in 1954 and is managed by a Board composed of not less than six members nominated by the Commissioner, not less than two members elected by the subscribing members of the Central Library and such other members as may be co-opted by the Board. Adult membership is free to all residents of the island but transients are permitted membership on payment of a deposit fee. Children between the ages of 6 and 16 years are eligible for membership of the juvenile section under certain conditions. At the end of 1954 there were 751 registered members, of whom 338 were juvenile members.

*Community education.* During the period voluntary work in mass education (community development) was conducted by the St. George's Progressive Society, the Kinsale Community Centre, the Cork Hill Cultural Club and the Salem Progressive Society. The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies conducted classes in choral music, economics, domestic science, shorthand, elementary mathematics and English.

### *Public Health*

The state of health of the Presidency was generally satisfactory and there was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease.

In 1953 there were 15 cases of influenza and three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified; in 1954 the numbers were 52 and eight respectively. The use of streptohydrazid in tubercular cases gave promising results, and the use of penicillin in the treatment of venereal disease and yaws resulted in very marked improvement.

A Sanitarian of the World Health Organisation visited the island and conducted a survey on the prevalence of *aedes aegypti*. His report disclosed a house index of from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. A further visit by an expert from the World Health Organisation is awaited. In the meantime the Port Health Authorities require persons arriving from abroad to produce a vaccination certificate against yellow fever.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

	1953	1954
Births . . . . .	424	429
Birth Rate per 1,000 . . . . .	39.8	31.3
Deaths . . . . .	202	180
Death Rate per 1,000 . . . . .	14.8	13.1
Deaths under 1 year . . . . .	48	53
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	113.2	123.7

The principle groups of diseases, mortality arising therefrom, provision for treatment and prevention, are described below:

*Epidemic, endemic and infectious diseases.* 1,306 cases were treated in 1953 and 887 in 1954, venereal diseases being the most prominent. The number of deaths were 24 and 15 respectively. There are three health clinics and a number of health outposts at which prophylactic inoculation as well as curative treatment may be obtained.

*General diseases.* The numbers of cases treated at the various clinics were 294 in 1953 and 244 in 1954. Cases in this group were mainly connected with malnutrition. Deaths were 10 and six respectively.

*Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs.* In 1953 there were 144 cases and in 1954 there were 220, of which the majority were connected with the treatment of the eyes. In this group, 12 deaths occurred in 1953 and eight in 1954. A few mental cases, were transferred to the Mental Institution in Antigua.

*Diseases of the circulation.* There were 222 and 176 cases during 1953 and 1954 respectively. Hypertension and degenerative heart diseases were again prominent. Deaths numbered 22 in 1953 and 15 in 1954. Patients were treated at the various clinics.

*Diseases of the respiratory system.* There were 1,166 cases treated in 1953 and 898 in 1954. The most common ailments in this group were the common cold, influenza, bronchitis, tonsils and adenoids. Treatment was given at the health clinics and the hospital as the circumstances warranted. The number of deaths were nine and seven respectively.

*Diseases of the digestive system.* There were 876 cases treated in 1953 and in 1954, 849; the commonest complaints were gastro-enteritis and dental caries. Deaths numbered nine and 19 respectively.

*Urogenital diseases.* The cases treated numbered 341 in 1953 and 291 in 1954. They were mainly kidney infections, salpingitis, diseases of the breast and menstrual disorders. Treatment was given at the various clinics and at Glendon Hospital. Deaths numbered two in each year.

*Medical, public and sanitary services.* The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health and sanitary services, which embrace the following: (a) free medical attention to children of labourers and to labourers above the age of 60 years as well as to paupers; (b) free medical attention to police non-commissioned ranks; (c) Glendon Hospital which has beds numbering up to 55; (d) three health centres and four outposts at which general, tuberculosis, ante-natal, venereal disease and yaws clinics are held; (e) a midwifery service (nine midwives); (f) a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc., and the control of insect-born diseases (three sanitary inspectors); (g) a market for the sale of food under sanitary conditions; (h) an institution for the care of the aged and infirm; (i) medical care of the prison; (j) port health supervision; and, (k) dental inspection and attention of children at the primary schools.

The island was divided into two medical districts. The Senior Medical Officer was also Medical Officer of District I and Superintendent of Glendon Hospital. The Medical Officer of District II was also anaesthetist at the Glendon Hospital. Both medical officers are allowed private practice. It had not proved possible to recruit a third medical practitioner by the end of 1954.

The staff of the Glendon Hospital comprised the Medical Superintendent, Nursing Sister (Matron), one Charge Nurse, six Staff Nurses, 12 Student Nurses, and one Dispenser and Laboratory Technician. The Dispenser, who is responsible for district work, operated from Glendon Hospital where he gave general assistance on operation days. Infant welfare, pre-natal care, and the midwifery service were conducted satisfactorily by three health nurses and the district midwives.

There were three areas of sanitary supervision covering the whole Presidency and three sanitary inspectors functioning in them. The Senior Medical Officer was the Public Health Authority.

*Expenditure.* Actual expenditure in 1953 and the revised estimated expenditure for 1954 on medical, public health and allied services is given below:

	1953	1954
	\$	\$
Medical . . . . .	15,665	21,414
Public Health . . . . .	24,123	25,110
Hospital . . . . .	59,050	52,208
Other . . . . .	22,553	26,038
	<u>\$121,391</u>	<u>\$124,770</u>

provided for every child in the Presidency. The following is a summary of school attendance figures for the years 1953 and 1954:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1953 . . .	1,819	1,404	76·1
1954 . . .	1,886	1,434	76·03

There is practically no absenteeism in the Secondary School. The enrolment figures for 1953 and 1954 were:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1953 . . .	34	85	119
1954 . . .	34	80	114

*Pre-vocational training.* There has been a marked improvement in the general attitude of parents and teachers towards the teaching of pre-vocational subjects and manual skills in school. Between 1951 and 1952 handcraft and housecraft classes were started in most of the full elementary schools. Formerly, these subjects were included in the curriculum of only one elementary school, although they have always formed an integral part of the secondary school course. A seminar-workshop on "Practical Arts in the Primary Schools of the Virgin Islands" in 1954 has given impetus to this type of training.

*Scholarships.* Two scholarships were awarded in dress-making and brick-laying at the Metropolitan Vocational School in Puerto Rico under the Technical Assistance Programme.

*Teachers.* In the public elementary schools, teachers are employed by their respective managements under general conditions prescribed in the Code of Regulations of 1926 and the Denominational School Teachers' Pension Ordinances, 1931 to 1949. Secondary school teachers are public officers. Teachers are trained at the Government Training College, Trinidad, Spring Gardens Teachers' Training College in Antigua, and, since 1954, at Erdiston College, Barbados.

In 1954 there were in the elementary schools 61 teachers of whom nine were trained, 28 untrained, 20 pupil teachers, and four teachers in training institutions. In the Secondary School in 1954, there was one trained teacher with a university degree, two trained and three untrained teachers.

*Library Services.* The Virgin Islands Public Library was opened in 1943 with headquarters in Road Town. The out-islands and rural districts in Tortola are served by six deposit stations. The library services are well used as the following statistics show:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. registered borrowers</i>	<i>No. Books</i>	
		<i>Stock</i>	<i>Circulation</i>
1953 . . .	976	9,873	9,118
1954 . . .	1,088	9,743	10,069

### Public Health

The health of the Presidency during the period under review was generally good. There were a few scattered cases of typhoid fever in Tortola. Regular clinics in Road Town continued to be held on three days in each week. The number of visits by the Medical Officer to out-lands and country districts, which had dropped from 49 in 1952 to 35 in 1953 (owing primarily to transportation difficulties) reached 45 in 1954. There were two Medical Officers serving in the Presidency until May, 1954, but thereafter only one.

The Board of Health which had not operated for several years was reconstituted in 1953.

In 1953, a WHO sanitarian conducted a survey and recommended that an anti-*aedes aegypti* campaign should be undertaken. A candidate was trained for the purpose and returned to the Presidency in December, 1954. It was proposed to start the campaign in 1955.

In 1953, a Children's Ward was added to the Cottage Hospital and paid for almost entirely from public subscriptions. An infirmary connected with the Hospital was opened in 1954.

### VITAL STATISTICS, 1953 AND 1954

	1953	1954
Birth Rate per 1,000 population . . . . .	42.5	40.5
Crude death rate per 1,000 population . . . . .	11.1	10.5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births . . . . .	78.8	91.8
Still birth rate per 1,000 live births . . . . .	28.3	26.2

### Housing

By West Indian standards, housing in the British Virgin Islands is fairly good. The typical home is a strongly built wooden or concrete structure measuring 18 feet long by 14 feet wide, with a corrugated galvanized iron roof and detached kitchen and out-house. The main dwelling is usually divided into three rooms—a living room and two bed rooms. The vast majority of householders own their homes and, even in Road Town and its environs, tenanted premises are rare. It is customary to add other rooms to a house as the size of the family increases. In Anegada and Virgin Gorda Valley the standard of housing is above the average. In the Belle Vue, Long Trench and Carrott Bay districts of Tortola wooden houses with thatched roofs are common. Measured by the West Indian norm there is, generally speaking, no housing shortage, although the average density per dwelling or per room is of course high.

All housing is undertaken by private enterprise and, in the majority of cases, by owner-occupiers. Timber-framed houses are common, and to a large extent are still preferred to houses constructed from other materials. Nonetheless, in the last ten years, increasing use has been made of stone, poured concrete and hollow concrete blocks as building materials, and in 1951–1952 houses built of these materials for the first time outnumbered those constructed from wood. For this achievement

cheap cement, the dread of hurricanes, and the ravages of termites are chiefly responsible.

### *Social Welfare*

Scouting was resuscitated in the Presidency in 1951 and guiding in 1952. In 1953 and 1954 there were two troops of Boy Scouts and two companies of Girl Guides and Brownies. The churches continued to play a vital part in general social welfare work through their various ancillary organisations, and there were sporadic activities by several voluntary groups aiming at community betterment. Government continued its weekly payments of out-door relief to destitute persons and orphans, and towards the end of 1954 a Community Fund was established with an initial contribution of \$424 made by the Virgin Islands Festival Committee from monies raised during the 1954 August Bank Holiday celebrations. Five trustees have been appointed to administer the fund which has already begun to grow.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

Forty-three Federal Acts were passed by the General Legislative Council during the years 1953 and 1954. Of these, the most important were:

- (i) An Act to repeal the Apprentices Act of 1882. That Act contained certain penal sanctions which were at variance with the provisions of the relative International Labour Convention.
- (ii) An Act to amend the Corporal Punishment Act. This Act reduces to three the number of offences against prison discipline for which corporal punishment may be awarded.
- (iii) An Act to make better provision for the prevention of praedial larceny.
- (iv) An Act to consolidate, simplify and amend the law relating to forgery and kindred offences.

### *Antigua*

In the Presidency of Antigua, 41 Ordinances were passed by the Presidential Legislative Council during 1953 and 1954. Of these, the most important were:

- (i) An Ordinance to amend further the Income Tax Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for the exemption from taxation of incomes of local authorities and trade unions insofar as such income is not derived from any trade or business; for the inclusion as deductions from taxable income of fixed annuities or any other payments made in favour of any charitable or educational institution, and of up to one-fifth of any expenditure incurred in certain industrial developments and improvements; for an increase in deductions in respect of a wife and children; and for increasing the tax in respect of taxable incomes exceeding £1,100 per annum;



- (ii) An Ordinance to control the importation of animals, etc., and to regulate the treatment and disposal of animals which are suffering or suspected to be suffering from any disease, and for other related matters;
- (iii) An Ordinance to consolidate the law relating to Fire Brigades.
- (iv) An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of an Industrial Development Board for securing the industrial development of the Presidency;
- (v) An Ordinance to make provision for raising a loan of £45,000 for the purpose of financing the reorganization of the telephone system in the Presidency;
- (vi) An Ordinance to make provision for raising a loan of £30,000 for the purpose of financing a housing programme in the Presidency;
- (vii) An Ordinance to make provision for raising a loan of £35,000 for the purpose of financing a housing programme in the vicinity of St. John's;
- (viii) An Ordinance to regulate the export of clean lint cotton from the Presidency;
- (ix) An Ordinance to provide for the registration of Nurses;
- (x) An Ordinance to provide for the constitution of a Central Board of Health and for the transfer thereto of the functions and powers of the Country Board of Health and the St. John's City Commissioners;
- (xi) An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the Crown and to civil proceedings by and against the Crown, and other matters relating thereto.

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

In the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, 25 Ordinances were passed by the Presidential Legislative Council during the years 1953 and 1954. Of these the most important were:—

- (i) An Ordinance to amend further the Income Tax Ordinance. This Ordinance raises the rate of tax on the chargeable income of companies from 6s. 6d. to 8s. in the pound.
- (ii) An Ordinance to amend further the Land and House Tax Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for increases in the annual rate of land tax on cultivated and uncultivated land in St. Kitts from 3s. to 12s. 6d. per acre in the case of cultivated land and from 6d. to 2s. 1d. per acre in the case of uncultivated land. It also provides for an increase in the tax on uncultivated land in the island of Nevis from 6d. to 1s. 8d. per acre.
- (iii) An Ordinance to control the importation of animals, etc., and to regulate the treatment and disposal of animals which are suffering or suspected to be suffering from any disease, and for other related matters.
- (iv) An Ordinance to provide for the management, control and supervision of aerodromes in the Presidency.

- (v) An Ordinance to repeal the laws relating to the Defence Force and the Defence Reserve and to make more suitable provisions for the control, training and discipline of the Defence Force.
- (vi) An Ordinance to vest in the Crown all minerals in the Presidency and to make provision for other related matters.
- (vii) An Ordinance to restrict increases of the rents of, and the recovery of possession of, premises in certain cases.
- (viii) An Ordinance to amend further the Passengers' Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for the minimum standards of life-saving equipment to be carried on vessels when taking passengers from the Presidency.

### *Montserrat*

In the Presidency of Montserrat, 18 Ordinances were passed by the Presidential Legislative Council during the years 1953 and 1954. Of these, the most important were:—

- (i) An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to local loans authorized to be raised by the issue of debentures.
- (ii) An Ordinance to amend the Board of Health Ordinance. The primary purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for the reconstitution of the Board of Health.
- (iii) An Ordinance to repeal the laws relating to the Defence Force and the Defence Reserve, and to make more suitable provisions for the control, training and discipline of the Defence Force.
- (iv) An Ordinance to encourage the hotel industry in the Presidency by granting certain reliefs in respect of customs duties and income tax.
- (v) An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the Crown and to civil proceedings by and against the Crown, and other matters relating thereto.
- (vi) An Ordinance to control the importation of animals, etc., and to regulate the treatment and disposal of animals which are suffering or suspected to be suffering from any disease, and for other related matters.
- (vii) An Ordinance to provide for the raising of a loan of £14,500 for the purpose of financing the electricity scheme and improvements to the public wharf in the Presidency.

### *The British Virgin Islands*

In the Presidency of the British Virgin Islands, 25 Ordinances were passed by the Presidential Legislative Council during the years 1953 and 1954. Of these, the most important were:

- (i) An Ordinance to encourage the hotel industry in the Presidency by granting certain reliefs in respect of customs duties and income tax.
- (ii) An Ordinance to encourage the establishment and development of new industries in the Presidency by granting certain reliefs in respect of customs duties and income tax.

- (iii) An Ordinance to provide for the registration and licensing of midwives and for the regulation of the practice of midwifery.
- (iv) An Ordinance to reconstitute the Legislative Council and to make other provisions relating thereto. This Ordinance provides for an elected majority on the Legislative Council, the election of a Deputy President of the Council, the creation of constituencies for polling, etc.
- (v) An Ordinance to make provision for the protection of specified trees and the conservation of soil and water resources, and other matters relating thereto.
- (vi) An Ordinance relating to the use, licensing, registration and operation of motor vehicles, etc.
- (vii) An Ordinance to provide for the establishment, management, supervision and control of prisons in the Presidency.
- (viii) An Ordinance to regulate harbours and wharves in the Presidency.

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

The Acts of the Leeward Islands and the Ordinances of the Presidencies constitute a fairly considerable body of statute law in force in the Colony. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial Empire and therefore extend to the Colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the Colony.

The Courts of Law in the Colony are:

- (a) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands;
- (b) The Summary Jurisdiction Court; and,
- (c) The Magistrate's Court.

From the 1st January, 1950, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and, by virtue of an Order in Council of His Majesty entitled the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands. This Court is presided over by a Chief Justice or Puisne Judges, of whom there are three in number.

Circuit Courts with a jury of nine for the trial of criminal cases are held in the various islands of the Colony as follows: in Antigua, in the

months of January, May and October; in St. Kitts, in the months of February, July and November; in Nevis, in the months of April and November; in Montserrat, in the months of March and October; and in the Virgin Islands, in the month of April. The Attorney General, or the Crown Attorney acting for the Attorney General in a Presidency for which a Crown Attorney is appointed, exercises the functions of the Grand Jury.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury in the several circuits of the Colony for the trial of civil cases where a sum of not more than £50 is involved and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed £100. The sittings of the Court are fixed for the first day of the month in which the Circuit Court sessions are to be held, but in practice they are held after the criminal list and appeals have been disposed of in the Circuit Courts, except in the case of the Virgin Islands, where sittings of the Summary Jurisdiction Court are fixed also for the first day of the months of August and December.

Cases of every type can be tried by the Supreme Court, but apart from the Magistrate's Court, the Summary Jurisdiction Court is the forum most resorted to. On the criminal side of the Supreme Court, offences under the Larceny Act, which include burglary, housebreaking and all the more serious thefts, preponderate. Actions for trespass are the most numerous in the Summary Jurisdiction Court.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was also created by the Imperial Order in Council of 1939) against convictions on Indictment and in certain civil matters, and to the West Indian Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of first instance and by leave from any interlocutory order made in the course of any proceedings.

Summary criminal offences and civil claims up to a limit of £20 in contract and £10 in tort are dealt with by the District Magistrates in each of the four Presidencies. Their jurisdiction is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61).

Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of a Judge may be made to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

In each of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Christopher and Nevis, and Montserrat, a Juvenile Court was established in the years 1951, 1950 and 1949 respectively. The District Magistrates and two assessors, one of whom is a lady, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juvenile Courts Procedure Rules, 1949. The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of juveniles.

Statistics of crimes, including persons proceeded against in the Courts, sentences of persons found guilty in the Courts and persons found guilty, analysed by age groups, are set out in the following tables:—

PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST IN 1954

<i>Crime or offence</i>	<i>Proceeded against in Higher Court</i>					<i>Proceeded against in Magistrate's Courts (Final Proceedings)</i>				
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Found guilty</i>	<i>Found not guilty or special verdict</i>	<i>Charge withdrawn etc.</i>	<i>Case not completed by 31st December</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Found guilty</i>	<i>Found not guilty or special verdict</i>	<i>Charge withdrawn etc.</i>	<i>Case not completed by 31st December</i>
I. Crimes against the person . . .	54	32	12	8	2	721	494	56	113	58
II. Crimes against property with violence . . .	53	28	8	6	11	8	2	—	5	1
III. Crimes against property without violence . . .	63	37	19	3	4	804	504	151	100	49
IV. Malicious injuries to property . . .	11	4	5	—	2	50	30	5	10	5
V. Forgery: Crimes against the currency . . .	18	14	3	1	—	5	1	—	3	1
VI. Other crimes . . .	2	—	—	—	2	6	3	—	2	1
VII. Minor assaults: Breaches of the peace . . .	—	—	—	—	—	3,415	2,633	336	278	168
VIII. Offences against local statutes and regulations not elsewhere enumerated . . .	—	—	—	—	—	933	741	77	86	29
IX. Road and traffic offences . . .	—	—	—	—	—	2,012	1,420	87	398	107
Totals . . .	201	115	47	18	21	7,954	5,828	712	995	419

## SENTENCES, ETC., ON PERSONS FOUND GUILTY (ALL COURTS) IN 1954

Crime or offence	Total found guilty	Sentenced to												
		Death	Imprisonment for						Ar- proved school etc.	Fine		Whip- ping or flog- ging only	Caution, reprimand, other	Whip- ping in addition to other sen- tence
			3 years or over	1 year and under 3 years	6 months and under 1 year	3 months and under 6 months	1 month and under 3 months	Under one month		\$5 or over	Under \$5			
I. Crimes against the person ...	526	2	8	17	6	22	16	8	—	299	80	8	60	—
II. Crimes against property with violence ...	30	—	5	12	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
III. Crimes against property without violence ...	541	—	7	21	37	65	58	6	2	203	63	7	71	1
IV. Malicious injuries to property ...	34	—	2	—	4	—	2	—	—	21	2	—	3	—
V. Forgery: Crimes against the currency ...	15	—	—	1	7	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
VI. Other crimes ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
VII. Minor assaults: breaches of the peace ...	2,633	—	—	4	5	16	123	44	—	1,082	747	5	607	—
VIII. Offences against local statutes and regulations not elsewhere enumerated ...	741	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	278	347	—	112	—
IX. Road and traffic offences ...	1,420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	575	—	505	—
Totals ...	5,943	2	22	56	65	105	206	58	2	2,227	1,814	20	1,365	1

PERSONS FOUND GUILTY (ALL COURTS) IN 1954, ANALYSED BY AGE GROUPS

<i>Crime or offence</i>	Total found guilty—both sexes	Males—by age group				Females—by age group					
		7 and under 14	14 and under 16	16 and under 21	21 and under 30	30 and over	7 and under 14	14 and under 16	16 and under 21	21 and under 30	30 and over
I. Crimes against the person	526	6	15	54	193	116	2	1	41	60	38
II. Crimes against property with violence	30	1	—	6	13	9	—	—	1	—	—
III. Crimes against property without violence	541	8	23	82	187	146	1	4	23	36	31
IV. Malicious injuries to property	34	—	—	1	17	13	—	—	1	2	—
V. Forgery: Crimes against the currency	15	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	1	3	1
VI. Other crimes	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
VII. Minor assaults: breaches of the peace	2,633	12	14	392	795	711	6	15	163	320	205
VIII. Offences against local statutes and regulations not elsewhere enumerated	741	1	4	19	175	382	—	1	7	44	108
IX. Road and traffic offences	1,420	1	4	141	621	633	—	—	—	9	11
Totals	5,943	29	61	695	2,011	2,012	9	21	237	474	394

## POLICE

The Leeward Islands Police Force was created in 1874 to replace the various island police forces in each Presidency. The Force, which is under the command of a Commissioner of Police whose headquarters are in Antigua, is divided into four divisions as follows: "A" Division in Antigua and Barbuda, under the command of a Superintendent; "B" Division in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla under the command of a Superintendent; "C" Division in Montserrat under the command of an Assistant Superintendent; and "D" Division in the Virgin Islands under the command of a sergeant. The Divisions are again divided into areas under the control of non-commissioned officers. There are 11 police stations in Antigua, 14 in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, five in Montserrat and one in the Virgin Islands.

The strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1954, was as follows:

"A" Division (Antigua and Barbuda) . . . . .	131
"B" Division (St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla) . . . . .	119
"C" Division (Montserrat) . . . . .	31
"D" Division (Virgin Islands) . . . . .	3

In addition to the foregoing, there was in 1954 an establishment of one Inspector, six non-commissioned officers and 15 men comprising the Fire Brigade in Antigua, which comes under the direct control of the Commissioner of Police. The strength of the establishment of "B" Division was increased by one sergeant and 12 constables during 1954.

There were also 316 local constables serving in the Colony in 1954 as follows: Antigua 124, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla 133, Montserrat 36, and the Virgin Islands 23. In St. Kitts, the local constables were of great assistance to the Police in their campaign against the illicit distillation of rum.

Other duties undertaken by the police, in addition to their normal duties, include the control of traffic and licensing of vehicles, control of immigration, the checking of weights and measures, the issuance of various other badges and licences (e.g., dog licences) and the operation of a radio-telephony service between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

*Training.* In 1953, an Inspector, and in 1954, a Sub-Inspector attended a six-month course of instruction at the Metropolitan Police Training School at Hendon. In 1954, an Assistant Superintendent of Police attended a six-month course for Colonial Police Officers at the Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore. The costs of these courses were met from the £1½ million scheme for Colonial Service training. In addition, in 1954, two corporals underwent a two-month course in fire-fighting in Trinidad, the cost being met by grants under the West Indies General Training Scheme.



There is no proper training school for police in this Colony, but some training is nevertheless undertaken at Police headquarters in Antigua. Thirteen recruits were so trained in 1953 and two classes, each of 12 recruits, in 1954. In addition, a class of 23 recruits was undergoing training in St. Kitts towards the end of 1954.

During 1953 and 1954, special emphasis was laid on training in first aid, and lectures and examinations of the St. John Ambulance Association were held in all Divisions of the Force. Twenty-three police personnel were awarded the certificate of the Association in 1953, and 89 in 1954.

*Crime.* The table on page 110 sets out particulars of crimes and offences known to the Police in 1954.

## CRIMES AND OFFENCES KNOWN TO THE POLICE, 1954

Particulars	Reports received during year			True reports under investigation from previous years	Total Reports investigated	Disposal of Reports			Cases of which the result was:—					
	All Reports	Less Reports Rejected	True Reports			Undetected		Cases where Charges brought	Cases withdrawn	Finding of not guilty	Finding Guilty	Still Pending on 31st Dec.		
						Closed	Still under Investigation							
All Crimes and Offences														
I. Crimes against the person ...	1,430	680	750	23	773	21	44	708	126	65	455	62		
II. Crimes against property with violence	261	41	220	38	258	165	38	55	13	8	21	13		
III. Crimes against property without violence ...	2,430	610	1,820	165	1,985	1,121	157	707	138	126	389	54		
IV. Malicious injuries to property ...	413	262	151	10	161	88	21	52	11	10	25	6		
V. Forgery and Crimes against currency	36	2	34	3	37	3	10	24	7	3	12	2		
VI. Other Crimes ...	30	4	26	2	28	15	4	9	3	—	3	3		
VII. Petty assaults and breaches of the peace	10,526	7,577	2,949	119	3,068	131	49	2,888	275	286	2,172	155		
VIII. Offences against Local statutes, etc. ...	886	119	767	1	768	10	7	751	76	44	591	40		
IX. Road and Traffic Offences ...	2,380	388	1,992	6	1,998	2	26	1,970	368	91	1,405	106		
Antigua ...	7,495	4,208	3,287	158	3,445	699	164	2,582	203	199	2,141	39		
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla ...	8,217	3,865	4,352	178	4,530	646	164	3,720	743	341	2,251	385		
Montserrat ...	2,178	1,397	781	31	812	202	27	583	47	70	466	—		
British Virgin Islands ...	502	213	289	—	289	9	1	279	24	23	215	17		
Total ...	18,392	9,683	8,709	376	9,076	1,556	356	7,164	1,017	633	5,073	441		

The number of breaking-in offences showed no diminution in Antigua and there was a slight increase in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. Regrettably, there was an increase in the numbers of woundings and assaults throughout the Colony. Their prevalence was chiefly due to the increase in the consumption of cheap alcohol, or through the medium of smuggling in the case of Antigua, and through illicit distillation in the case of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. Investigations disclosed that about 90 per cent of the offenders, at the time of commission of the offence, were under the influence of intoxicating liquor or were provoked by those in such a state. In Antigua, the figures for animal theft were the lowest for the past three years, and there was also a slight decrease in Montserrat. Regular police patrols were chiefly responsible for this decrease. In St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, however, the number of cases of animal theft was 41·4 per cent higher in 1954 than in 1953. In St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, 194 illicit stills were destroyed by the Police in 1954 and 127 persons were prosecuted, of whom 117 were convicted. Smuggling continued to present a special problem in Antigua but the number of cases detected in 1954 was higher than in 1953.

#### ANTIGUA

*Prisons.* The prison in Antigua, which has accommodation for 120 male and 26 female prisoners, accommodates all prisoners in Antigua, prisoners from the Virgin Islands with long sentences, and the overflow of prisoners with long sentences from St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat. There is also accommodation for six young offenders at the prison farm.

The staff consisted of the Keeper, an Honorary Chaplain, one Chief Officer, one Principal Officer, four Prison Officers (Grade I), two Prison Officers (Grade II), 15 Prison Officers (Grade III), a Prison Matron and one female warder.

The prison population during 1953 and 1954 was as follows:—

No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1953	90
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1953	85
Daily average, 1953 (males 77·99, females 1·26)	79·15
No. of prisoners received in 1953 (males 202, females 16)	218
No. convicted, 1953	182
No. remanded, 1953	36
No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1954	84
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1954	100
Daily average, 1954 (males 86·02, females 2·52)	88·54
No. of prisoners received in 1954 (males 231, females 19)	250
No. convicted, 1954	211 (a)
No. remanded, 1954	39

(a) One sentenced to death.

Of the 250 prisoners received into the prison in 1954, 149 had previous convictions, but over 50 per cent of the offences of these recidivists were in respect of maintenance orders and arrears payable in respect of bastardy or desertion. Young offenders and first offenders are placed in separate cell blocks and, as far as possible, are separated at work from the other prisoners.

In 1953, there were 94 breaches of discipline by prisoners. Restricted diet and confinement to cells was awarded in 12 cases, restricted diet and loss of marks in 41 cases, loss of marks in 24 cases; prisoners were reprimanded in 17 cases. In 1954, there were 141 breaches of discipline. Restricted diet and confinement to cells was awarded in 24 cases, restricted diet and loss of marks in 91 cases, loss of marks in 18 cases; prisoners were reprimanded in eight cases.

The general health of the prisoners was good throughout the period under review, the daily average for admission to hospital in 1953 and 1954 being .02 per cent and .024 per cent respectively.

The following trades are taught in prison; carpentry, cabinet-making, shoe-repairing, plumbing, tailoring and bread-making. Agricultural training of an elementary nature is also undertaken at the prison farm. In addition, the prisoners are employed in the maintenance of public parks and playing fields.

There are no schemes for earning in prison but prisoners who serve sentences in excess of one year receive a sum at the rate of 1s. a week on their discharge in order to give them a start in civilian life. Prisoners who serve short sentences are given small allowances by the after-care officer to provide food for themselves whilst seeking employment.

There is a Boys' Training School for the reformation, education and training of boys under the age of 18 years who are convicted by the courts. The maximum accommodation is for 20 boys but on the 1st January, 1954, there were 25 and on the 31st December, 1954, 21 boys. They attend the nearby elementary school, and engage in gardening, scouting and various sports. The location of the school (in St. John's) and its size are not satisfactory and provision has been made in the development plan of the Presidency for 1955-60 for the building of a new reformatory outside the city.

The Prisons Department works in close collaboration with the Salvation Army and the After-Care Committee, who undertake the after-care of discharged prisoners.

#### ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

*Prisons.* The main prison is situated in the island of St. Kitts, but there is a prison farm on the island of Nevis and a "lock-up" on the island of Anguilla. Only prisoners with sentences of up to seven days are detained in the "lock-up" in Anguilla; those with longer sentences are transferred to the prison in St. Kitts.

The senior Police Officer in the Presidency exercises general supervision over the prisons. The staff of the Prisons Department consists of the Keeper, 13 subordinate male Prison Officers, and two subordinate female officers.

The prison population during the years 1953 and 1954 was:—

No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1953 . . . . .	56
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1953 . . . . .	58
No. of prisoners received in 1953 (298 males, 32 females) . . . . .	330
No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1954 . . . . .	58
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1954 . . . . .	85
No. of prisoners received in 1954 (374 males, 27 females) . . . . .	401
No. of prisoners transferred to prison farm, 1953 . . . . .	36
No. of prisoners transferred to prison farm, 1954 . . . . .	46

Though the number of recidivists remain somewhat high, the majority of their offences were in respect of maintenance orders or arrears payable in respect of bastardy or desertion. The number of recidivists has dropped by 6 per cent since 1952. The prison building does not permit the complete segregation of various classes of prisoners, but it is the policy to send young offenders and certain star class prisoners to the prison farm in Nevis where accommodation for 30 is available.

Details of breaches of discipline by prisoners are set out in the following table:

<i>Punishment awarded</i>	<i>Nos. of cases</i>	
	1953	1954
Loss of remission marks . . . . .	16	21
Restricted diet . . . . .	28	45
Reprimanded . . . . .	67	113
Confinement to cell . . . . .	13	9
Loss of privileges . . . . .	1	1
Extra work . . . . .	18	4
Charge dismissed . . . . .	25	7
	<hr/> 168	<hr/> 200

The general health of the prisoners was good throughout the period.

The following trades are taught in prison: agriculture, carpentry, mat-making, mattress-making and tacking, preparation of coir, baking and tailoring. Certain handicrafts are also taught, some other education given, and a small prison library provided.

There are no schemes for earning in prison but prisoners who serve sentences in excess of one year receive a sum at the rate of 1s. a week on their discharge in order to give them a start in civilian life. Those who serve sentences of under one year received amounts ranging from 2s. 6d. for two months to 13s. 11d. for 11 months.

After-care work amongst discharged prisoners was limited to the provision of financial assistance and/or clothing, tools, etc.

## MONTSERRAT

*Prisons.* The prison in Montserrat has cell accommodation for 30 males and six females.

The senior Police Officer in the Presidency exercises general supervision over the prison, the staff at which comprises the Keeper, eight prison officers and a matron.

The prison population during 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1953 . . . . .	26
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1953 . . . . .	25
Daily average 1953 . . . . .	26·05
No. of prisoners received in 1953 . . . . .	134
(96 were convicted, 27 remanded or awaiting trial, and 11 suspected lunatics)	
No. of prisoners, 1st January, 1954 . . . . .	25
No. of prisoners, 31st December, 1954 . . . . .	18
Daily average, 1954 . . . . .	19·90
No. of prisoners received in 1954 . . . . .	80
(66 were convicted, 6 remanded or awaiting trial, and 8 suspected lunatics)	

In 1953, two of the 11 persons committed as suspected lunatics were transferred to the Mental Hospital in Antigua and the remainder were discharged; in 1954, one of the eight suspected lunatics was transferred to the Mental Hospital in Antigua and the remainder discharged.

The figures for recidivism for 1953 and 1954 were high, being 71·8 per cent and 81·8 per cent respectively. In view of the limitations of prison accommodation, it is not possible to adopt special treatment for recidivists. No juveniles were sent to prison on remand or otherwise during the years under review.

Details of breaches of discipline by prisoners are set out in the following table:

<i>Punishment Awarded</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	
	1953	1954
Restricted diet and confinement to cells . . . . .	60	54
Restricted diet and loss of marks . . . . .	1	6
Reprimanded . . . . .	26	24
	<hr/> 87	<hr/> 84

The general health of the prisoners was good throughout the period, the daily average of prisoners in hospital being ·06 and 1·01 respectively.

Male prisoners were taught, and engaged in, the following trades: shoe-repairing, carpentry, tailoring, tinsmithing, masonry, stone-breaking and baking. They also cleaned the grounds of government premises and cultivated the prison garden on Parsons Estate. Female prisoners were chiefly engaged in washing, sewing and cleaning.

There are no schemes for earning in prison but prisoners who serve sentences in excess of one year receive a sum at the rate of 1s. a week on discharge. There is a Prison Aid Board which provides help to discharged prisoners who have served sentences of between six and 12 months.

#### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

*Prisons.* There is a small local prison, containing accommodation for five male and three female prisoners, to which short-term prisoners and persons on remand are committed. Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of six months or over are sent to the prison in Antigua.

The Sergeant of Police and his wife perform the duties of Keeper and Matron respectively and other policemen serve as warders as and when required.

On the 1st January, 1953, there were no prisoners in prison; during 1953, 20 persons were sentenced to imprisonment and 22 were committed on remand; on the 31st December, 1953, there were three prisoners in the local prison. Fifteen persons were sentenced to imprisonment during 1954 and 10 were committed on remand. At the 31st December, 1954, there were three male prisoners. Juvenile delinquency is not a problem in the Presidency.

The percentage of recidivism is somewhat high. Prison discipline was, however, good and there were no serious offences against prison discipline during the years under review. The health of the prisoners was uniformly good. Prisoners are usually employed at the Government Stock Farm or on repairs and maintenance of the police station and prison buildings. There were no schemes for earning in prison and no arrangements for the after-care of the few discharged short-sentence prisoners.

## Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

#### ANTIGUA

*Telephone System.* The Presidency is served by a publicly-owned telephone system, comprising one central exchange of a capacity of 300 subscribers, though it served nearly 400 persons, and two branch exchanges of a capacity of 50 subscribers each. The system is an earth return magnetotype of ancient vintage, having been installed in the latter part of the 19th century. Whilst it continued to give mediocre service, it was now quite inadequate to meet the increasing demands for telephonic communications throughout the island. Approval was obtained in 1954 for raising a loan of £45,000 for the complete reorganization of the service and the necessary loan legislation was enacted in 1954. Considerable quantities of equipment had been received by the close of that year and work on the reorganization of the system was expected to begin early in 1955.

*Electricity.* Until July, 1951, the Antigua Electricity Board operated only a D.C. 220 volt system with an installed capacity of 180 k.w. in St. John's but in that month it acquired the A.C. power plant and distribution system which had originally been installed to serve the United States Army base at Coolidge Field and which had subsequently been taken over and operated by the Antigua Government. This plant comprises two power plants, each having a capacity of 450 k.w., being interconnected so that both stations can operate on the same system. These plants are large enough to supply the needs of the entire island both now and in the foreseeable future, and it was therefore decided that the D.C. plant should be scrapped and that the A.C. system should be extended to cover the whole island. Loan legislation for this purpose was enacted accordingly.

The initial part of the scheme is to supply energy from the power plants at Coolidge Field to St. John's and its suburbs; this was to be done by two tie lines some four and a half miles long terminating at a new sub-station in St. John's. One part of this tie line and all equipment in the sub-station were brought into operation during the period under review. The second part of the tie line was also 75 per cent completed and was expected to be put into service early in 1955. The current is brought in at 2,300 volts and stepped down through the 122 k.v.a. sub-station to 400-230 volts, 3-phase, 60 cycles. By the end of the year 700 erstwhile consumers of D.C. had been converted to A.C. and 400 new consumers connected to the new system. It was hoped that it would be possible to close down the D.C. system early in 1955.

During 1954, 1,040,413 k.w.h. were generated by the A.C. plant, the number of A.C. consumers being 1,665. In addition to supplying electrical energy, the Board also operated an ice and cold storage plant and a new 10-ton installation was in course of erection.

The tariff for A.C. current was as follows:

*Light:*

- 1— 20 k.w.h. at 25¢ per k.w.h.
- 21— 600 k.w.h. at 20¢ per k.w.h.
- 601—1,000 k.w.h. at 15¢ per k.w.h.
- 1,001— up k.w.h. at 10¢ per k.w.h.

*Power:*

- 1—100 k.w.h. at 12¢ per k.w.h.
- 101—500 k.w.h. at 9¢ per k.w.h.
- 500— up k.w.h. at 8¢ per k.w.h.

*Domestic:*

- 1— 20 k.w.h. at 25¢ per k.w.h.
- 12— 50 k.w.h. at 10¢ per k.w.h.
- 51— up k.w.h. at 8¢ per k.w.h.

Special consumers, such as a large ice-making plant, enjoy special rates.



*Water supplies.* There are no rivers or streams of any consequence in Antigua and the principal sources of water supplies are: the Body Ponds catchment area of 2,000 acres which has five earthen reservoirs with masonry dams holding 26 million gallons of water; Brecknocks, with a watershed of 200 acres where there is a dam of similar construction impounding  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons of water; Wallings and Fig Tree with a capacity of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons; the water supply at Coolidge Field where the rain is caught on the two concrete runways whence it runs through two rough filters into two reservoirs of a capacity of one million gallons each; and a number of springs in various parts of the island.

There is no doubt that water supplies constitute one of the Presidency's biggest problems; supplies are quite inadequate to meet the demand and the distribution system is still in need of extensive expansion. This problem is accentuated by the periodical droughts from which the Presidency suffers. Thus, drought conditions prevailed throughout the whole of 1953 and the first half of 1954; only 29.08 inches fell in 1953 which is nearly 15 inches below the average for the preceding 20 years. Accordingly, supplies had to be restricted over a long period.

Nevertheless, a good deal was done to ameliorate the position. Three wells were drilled in the Bendals valley and pumps of the electrical submersible type were installed in two of them, current being supplied by a diesel-driven generator. This resulted in an additional 220,000 gallons per day being made available to St. John's; the water is of reasonably good quality requiring only chlorination treatment. During the period under review, six further wells were drilled and cased, one in the Bendals valley with an estimated output of 70,000 gallons per day, three in Claremont valley with an estimated output of 80,000 gallons per day, and two at Bristol Springs with an estimated output of 60,000 gallons per day. These six wells had not been brought into use by the end of 1954 owing to delays in the supply of pumping equipment. With the receipt of a rotary drilling rig, further sites for permanent wells have been established in the Bendals valley.

Excavation work and the construction of a reinforced concrete dam resulted in the establishment of Bendals Pool as a catchment reservoir of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons capacity. A pumping tower was constructed and a diesel-driven pump installed.

The start of the island-wide water distribution scheme alleviated to some extent the acute shortage of water in the country districts, but much work remained to be done. The relaying of old water mains in St. John's progressed rapidly and many cross and inter-connexions were made so that different areas of the City may be supplied from two or more directions. New standing fire hydrants were also installed in the City for fire protection purposes.

Though much remains to be done, it was confidently anticipated that continuance of the drilling programme would greatly alleviate, if not solve completely, the water supply problems of the Presidency.

A new pier leading from the warehouse area was constructed by contractors, work on land reclamation and the pier approach having first been undertaken. The pier is 448 ft. in length, with a depth of 11 ft. of water at the end. Extensions to the warehouse and other ancillary buildings were nearing completion at the close of 1954. In addition, the pier leading to the Treasury building was completely reconstructed.

Apart from general maintenance work, one-and-a-half miles of the main circuminsular road in St. Kitts, between Stonecastle and Capisterre, and one mile of the same road where it passes through villages, were reconstructed. Concrete drains and curbs were constructed in the villages. In Nevis, further reconstruction of the main circuminsular road was undertaken.

#### MONTSERRAT

*Telephone system.* A two-wire metallic telephone system serves most parts of the island and gives a fair service. The central exchange is in Plymouth.

*Electricity.* There is no electricity system in Montserrat but a scheme for the electrification of Plymouth was approved in December, 1954, and preliminary work on it was started before the close of that year. The scheme will be financed partly by a free grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and partly by loan. It is designed initially to provide a 12-hour service for Plymouth, but will be capable of expansion to a 24-hour service at a later date.

*Water supplies.* Mountain springs throughout the island are the source of water supplies. Plymouth and the southern part of the island are supplied with water from four springs in the mountains east of the town, the output of three of these springs being piped to a reservoir above Plymouth.

The water services throughout the island were maintained in good condition throughout the period under review and various improvements were effected. A new main line was installed to the villages of Salem and Friths, and part of the Cork Hill main line relaid, resulting in greatly improved supplies to those areas. At the village of Long Ground a large storage tank was built in 1953 at the termination of the pipe line from Paradise reservoir. A new water service to Harris' village was installed in 1953 and was later extended to other areas. Supplies of water in the northern area, though improved, still remained inadequate owing to increasing public consumption.

At the close of 1954 negotiations between the owners of Killiekrankie Springs and the Government for a water supply service from those springs to Plymouth were nearing completion. The scheme provides for the impounding of the springs with an average output of 200,000 gallons per day and for the piping of this supply by gravity to the mains in the town. This scheme, if implemented, should finally solve the problem of water shortage in Plymouth and the southern part of the island.

The year 1954 was notable for the serious drought experienced during the first half of the year. This caused a serious water shortage in Plymouth.

*Public Works.* In addition to the normal routine work of the Department, much additional work was done in 1953 on repairing the extensive damage wrought to bridges, roads and water services by a torrential rain storm in November, 1952. The cost of the work was met by a free grant from Her Majesty's Government. In 1954, in order to relieve unemployment conditions in the cotton industry caused by the drought, considerable relief work on roads was undertaken.

The principal new public works undertaken in 1953 were the completion of the new Secondary/Senior School near Plymouth, and the construction of the new pavilion at Sturge Park near Plymouth. The cost of the former was met by a free grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds; the cost of the pavilion—£2,500—was met by a free grant of £2,000 from the same source, the balance of £500 being collected by voluntary effort. In 1954, a new sterilizing room, adjoining the operating theatre, was built at the Glendon Hospital, and the building of an observation block and isolation ward at the hospital, an edifice to house the new electric generating plant, and a studio and transmitting room for Radio Montserrat were in advanced stages of construction by the close of the year.

Parts of the northern and southern main roads were sealed with colas during the year and portions of the former were regraded, some steeper sections being concreted and concrete drains laid down. Two new secondary roads were cut.

#### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

*Telephone system.* There is no telephone system.

*Electricity.* The small A.C. electricity plant, a 20 k.w. generator driven by a 25 h.p. diesel engine, which was installed by Government in 1950, continued to supply a daily 6-hour service for lighting the streets of Road Town and supply current to private individuals. Consumers numbered 56 in 1953 and 61 in 1954 (including Government buildings). The maximum load which the plant can carry was reached in 1954 and at the end of the year plans were being considered for an expansion of the service.

*Water supplies.* During the period the Government Geologist examined and reported in detail upon the sources of water supplies in the Presidency. His report, together with a report by the Water Engineer, Antigua, on the subject of a piped water supply for Road Town, form the basis on which the problems of water supplies, which are formidable during drought periods, will be tackled.

A free grant of £1,500 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for the improvement of water supplies was obtained in 1953, and further grants of £6,000 for country water supplies and of £4,000 for Road Town water supplies were obtained in 1954.

By the end of the period under review, nine wells and two springs had been improved, two new wells sunk, and a new cistern built in Tortola; three wells had been improved and a new cistern built in Virgin Gorda; four wells had been improved in Jost Van Dyke; and two wells had

been improved and a disused cistern renovated in Anegada. Some of the materials for the scheme for a piped water supply to Road Town were received before the end of 1954. Nevertheless a good deal still remains to be done before water supplies throughout the Presidency can be regarded as satisfactory.

*Public Works.* The principal public works undertaken were as follows: the building of an office for the Department in Road Town; the building of a new revenue office, and quarters for the Revenue Officer, at West End; the construction of new jetties at Jost Van Dyke, Towers and West End; the erection of an infirmary, mortuary and kitchen at the Road Town Hospital; and the building of three new bridges. The period under review also saw the launching of the new Government launch *St. Ursula*, and the completion of nine miles of motorable road connecting Road Town with East End. In addition, much of the time of the officers of the Department was taken up with "deferred maintenance" works. The progress achieved in 1953 and 1954 was creditable, particularly in view of staffing difficulties.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### SHIPPING

Communications between the Colony and the United Kingdom were maintained by vessels of the Harrison Line, which called approximately once a month at Antigua and St. Kitts to discharge cargo and load sugar or cotton for the United Kingdom. During the crop season for sugar, from about January to July, more frequent calls were made. These vessels also call at Montserrat at infrequent intervals to discharge cargo from, and load cotton for, the United Kingdom.

Banana carrying vessels belonging to the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, which have accommodation for about 12 passengers and which maintain a regular service between Martinique or Guadeloupe on the one hand, and Dieppe or Rouen on the other hand, also called at Antigua at irregular intervals to embark or disembark passengers to or from the United Kingdom.

Cargo vessels of the Canadian National Steamship Company, which have accommodation for a limited number of passengers, also maintained a regular southbound service during the years under review between Canada and Trinidad, calling at Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat en route. In addition, cargo vessels of the Alcoa Line, with accommodation for a limited number of passengers, maintained a similar southbound service between the United States and Trinidad calling at Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat.

The inter-island facilities provided by the two last-mentioned shipping lines were also supplemented by small Dutch and French cargo-carrying steamers, which called at Antigua and St. Kitts *en route*

between Curaçao and St. Martin; by two motor vessels of about 100 tons each—the *Caribbee* and the *Moneka*—which ply between these islands, the Windward Islands, Barbados and Curaçao; and by numerous sloops and schooners which ply between the Leeward Islands themselves and between this Colony and other West Indian territories.

A new inter-island service was inaugurated in December, 1954, by the Dutch motor-vessel *Antillia*, which has accommodation for passengers and refrigerated cargo space, and which plies between Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Martin, St. Eustatius, Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Trinidad, the Windward Islands and Santo Domingo.

At the close of 1954, negotiations between the Governments of Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, the Windward Islands, and the Leeward Islands (excepting the Virgin Islands), and the West Indies Navigation Co. Ltd., for a regular inter-territorial shipping service by the s.s. *West Indian* were almost complete.

Communications between the British Virgin Islands and Charlotte Amalie, the Capital of the American Virgin Islands on the island of St. Thomas, are maintained by sea-going launches and by numerous sloops and schooners, whilst communications between that Presidency and the other three Presidencies are maintained by sloops and schooners.

#### CIVIL AVIATION

British West Indian Airways maintained a thrice weekly service between Antigua (Coolidge Field airport) and St. Kitts (Golden Rock airport) during the years under review. The Company also maintained regular services between this Colony and other islands of the British and French West Indies, and Puerto Rico. The services to Jamaica and Barbados connect with the services of British Overseas Airways to the United Kingdom.

Pan American World Airways maintained a service between the United States and Trinidad, which called twice weekly northbound and southbound at Antigua. The number of flights in each direction was increased to three each week during the tourist season from January to May.

K.L.M. continued to maintain a service between Curaçao and St. Martin, calling at Guadeloupe and St. Kitts.

Air France commenced to operate a scheduled service during the period under review, calling at Antigua once weekly northbound and southbound, *en route* between Puerto Rico, and Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Aeronautical telecommunications services in Antigua and St. Kitts are operated by International Aeradio (West Indies) Limited, in accordance with agreements entered into with the Governments of these Presidencies.

As a result of a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme in 1954, it was possible to enlarge a private airstrip in the island of Montserrat, in consequence of which a weekly air service was operated between

Montserrat and Antigua by an American Company. Following an aircraft accident at the "take-off" later in the year, however, the service was discontinued.

Although there was no airport in the Virgin Islands, plans were being drawn up at the close of 1954 for an application for a Colonial Development and Welfare grant to enable an airstrip to be constructed on Beef Island.

#### RAILWAYS

There are only two narrow light gauge railways in the Colony, in Antigua and St. Kitts. The total length of line in Antigua is 53 miles and in St. Kitts 36 miles. The railways are used for the transport of sugar cane to the factories and for the conveyance of sugar from the factories to the wharves.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintained stations in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat, St. Kitts being connected by cable with other parts of the West Indies. Radiotelephony services are operated by the Company with other islands in the West Indies, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

A limited local service was operated between Barbuda, where a station was maintained by the Antigua Government, and Antigua, where the service was operated by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited.

A similar limited local service was operated by the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

There were no telecommunications services in the Virgin Islands but a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was approved in 1954 for the establishment of a radiotelephony network within the islands, with a link through the American island of St. Thomas to the outside world.

## Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

### PRESS

The following were the newspapers and periodicals published in this Colony during the period under review:

#### *Antigua*

Weekly—*the Leeward Islands Gazette*

Daily—*the Antigua Star; the Workers' Voice*

#### *St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*

Fortnightly—*the St. Christopher-Nevis Official Gazette*

Weekly—*the Workers' Weekly; the Democrat; the Nevis Recorder*

Daily—*the St. Christopher-Nevis Daily Bulletin; the Union Messenger*

#### *Montserrat*

Weekly—*the Montserrat Observer; the Standard*

#### *British Virgin Islands*

No newspapers were published.

### BROADCASTING

A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was approved in 1953 for the establishment of a small broadcasting station in Antigua but, owing to difficulties and delays experienced in the procurement of the necessary equipment, the station had not been established by the end of 1954.

In 1954, a small local broadcasting station was established in Montserrat, finance being provided under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme. The station, which operates on 3,255 kc/s, gives short broadcasts to schools each Wednesday and a short religious broadcast and a magazine type of programme each Sunday.

There was no broadcasting station in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla or in the Virgin Islands.

### FILMS

There were no films produced locally.

There were commercial cinemas in St. John's and Parham in Antigua, in Basseterre in St. Kitts, and in Plymouth in Montserrat, but no such cinema in the Virgin Islands.

Portable 16 mm. sound film projectors are owned by the Governments of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and the Virgin Islands and free entertainment and educational shows were given where supplies of

electricity were available. Films shown included British news reels and others supplied by the Central Office of Information. In Montserrat, a similar projector owned by the Montserrat Company is used for the same purposes.

#### GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

There were no Public Relations or Information Departments in the Colony, and information was disseminated as far as possible through public notices, Press releases and, in the case of Montserrat, through the radio station. In addition, prepared articles, films, periodicals, ebionoids and posters, received from the Central Office of Information, were disseminated.

### Chapter 13: Local Forces

The *Antigua* Defence Force was disbanded in August, 1952, primarily because it had no headquarters of its own, no indoor facilities for training, and no accommodation for its equipment and stores. It was hoped to provide a permanent headquarters and re-establish the Force in 1955.

The *St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla* Defence Force was reorganized in 1913 and was on actual service during the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. The Force is a purely voluntary body and no member receives any pay and allowances save when the Force is embodied for actual service, or on active service, or on annual training. During 1954, a new and up to date Ordinance was enacted repealing the laws relating to the Defence Force and Defence Reserve and making suitable provision for the control, training and discipline of the Force. The Defence Reserve was abolished in 1954. There is a Cadet Corps attached to the Grammar School.

The *Montserrat* Defence Force is a purely voluntary and locally recruited body. The Force was reconstituted in 1954 as a result of the enactment of a new Defence Force Ordinance, which repealed the out-moded legislation and made suitable provision for the control, training and discipline of the Force.

There was no Defence Force in the *British Virgin Islands*.



## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony of the Leeward Islands, with a total area of 422 square miles, consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the chain of the Lesser Antilles and partly (the Virgin Islands group) to the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis and Montserrat form a fairly compact group between the 61st and 63rd degrees of west longitude, and between the 15th and 19th degrees of north latitude; but Anguilla, Sombbrero, and still more the Virgins group (Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, etc.) lie apart to the north and north-west.

St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat form part of the volcanic chain of the Lesser Antilles, and Antigua and Barbuda form part of the eastern sedimentary series of the same chain. Nevis was a fashionable health resort in the 18th century on account of its hot medicinal baths which may still be used.

The climate of Antigua is drier than most of the other West Indian Islands and is delightful from the end of November to the beginning of May, when the north-east trade winds begin to fail. The hot season then sets in, during which the weather is generally rainy. The shade temperature seldom exceeds 90° F. and the average annual range is between 70° and 90° F. The island is subject to droughts but the mean annual rainfall is between 43 and 45 inches.

The climate of St. Kitts-Nevis is tropical but healthy, the mean average temperature being 78·8° F. and the average rainfall 55 inches per annum.

The climate of Montserrat is also tropical and healthy. The mean annual temperature is about 82° F. and the average rainfall 62 inches per annum. The weather is cool from December to March but hot from July to October inclusive.

The climate of the Virgin Islands is most equable. The shade temperature rarely rises above 86° F. or falls below 65° F. Only from mid-August to early November does the weather become hot. Rainfall averages about 50 inches per annum, but droughts are not unknown.

### Chapter 2: History

The Leeward Islands were discovered in 1493 by Christopher Columbus who named Antigua after a church in Seville.

St. Kitts was the first island in the West Indies to be settled by the English when Sir Thomas Warner, Captain of the King's Body Guard, brought out a number of farmers and artisans in 1623. Antigua was

visited by some Spaniards under Don Antonio Serrano in 1520; an abortive attempt at settlement was made by d'Esnambuc, Captain of a French privateer in 1629, but there was no permanent settlement until in 1632 Englishmen from St. Kitts, under Egbert, the son of Sir Thomas Warner, established themselves. Montserrat was settled by Sir Thomas Warner in 1632 and the Virgin Islands, named after St. Ursula and the 11,000 virgins, were first settled by Dutch buccaneers in 1648.

Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat were captured and occupied by the French for various periods during the 17th and 18th centuries, but have remained in British possession since the beginning of the 19th century. English buccaneers expelled their Dutch rivals from the Virgin Islands in 1666 and in 1672 the islands were absorbed into the Leeward Islands Colony.

The best known events in the Presidency's history are perhaps the defence of Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts in 1782, an action which ultimately enabled Rodney to defeat the French Fleet at "The Saints", near Dominica, and the construction of the Naval Dockyard at English Harbour at Antigua in 1725, where Nelson, then commander of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, lived between 1785 and 1787 and married the young widow Nisbet. In 1750 Sir Alexander Hamilton son of a Scottish planter and chief draughtsman of the American Constitution was born in Charlestown, Nevis, where the remains of his alleged birth-place are still to be seen. The following are some of the important events in the Colony's history between 1600 and 1954:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1607	Nevis visited by English colonists.
1623	Settlement of St. Christopher by Thomas Warner on 28th January.
1625	Antigua, St. Christopher, Nevis and Barbuda taken under Royal protection by patent under the Great Seal of England, 13th September. Thomas Warner, after a visit to England, and Sieur d'Esnambuc landed about the same day in St. Christopher.
1626	Commission given by Richelieu, in October, to Sieur d'Esnambuc to people the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and any other situated "at the entrance to Peru".
1627	Division of St. Christopher by the English and French. Grant by letters patent, dated 2nd June, to the Earl of Carlisle, of all the Caribbean Islands including Barbados.
1628	Mr. Littleton, a planter at St. Christopher, obtained a grant of Barbuda.
1632	Antigua and Montserrat colonised from St. Christopher by Sir T. Warner and his son.
1640-47	Sugar industry introduced into the Leeward Islands.
1648	Temporary settlement of Tortola by the Dutch.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1661	Barbuda colonised from Antigua.
1666	St. Christopher taken by the French and many English inhabitants expelled. Antigua also invaded and plundered.
1667	Montserrat taken by the French (February). By the Treaty of Breda (21st July), the English part of St. Christopher and Antigua and Montserrat declared English.
1671	Leeward Islands separated from Barbados. Commission to Sir Charles Wheeler as Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, with headquarters at Nevis (25th January).
1681	Antigua devastated by a hurricane.
1689	French planters expelled English settlers from St. Christopher.
1696	Antigua selected as the seat of Government.
1706	St. Christopher attacked by a French fleet. Capitulation of Nevis. Mr. Parke appointed Governor.
1710	Governor Parke killed.
1722	Hurricane in St. Christopher.
1769	Disastrous fire in St. John's, Antigua.
1774	The Legislative Assembly of the Virgin Islands met for the first time on 1st February.
1782	Surrender of Brimstone Hill to the Marquis de Bouille (13th February). St. Christopher, Nevis and Montserrat captured. Victory of Rodney over de Grasse off the Saints (12th April).
1786	Visit to Antigua of Prince William Henry in the Pegasus frigate ( <i>Clarence House</i> ) with Captain Nelson of <i>H.M.S. Boreas</i> in attendance.
1789	Great drought in Antigua.
1807	Abolition of the slave trade.
1816	Antigua, Barbuda and Montserrat constituted a separate Government, while St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands were made a separate colony.
1871	Federation of the Leeward Islands. Hurricane in Antigua.
1871-74	Severe drought in Antigua.
1880	Visit of <i>H.M.S. Bacchante</i> with Prince George on board.
1896	Great flood in Montserrat caused considerable destruction and loss of life. The flood was followed by several series of earthquakes.
1897	Appointment of Royal Commission to enquire into conditions and prospects of the West Indian Colonies with particular regard to the depression in the sugar industry.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>
1899	Severe hurricane swept over Montserrat, St. Christopher and Nevis, followed by a second storm which visited Antigua. Montserrat suffered heavy damage.
1916	Cyclone did considerable damage to the Virgin Islands.
1920	Visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in <i>H.M.S. Renown</i> .
1924	Hurricane struck Montserrat.
1928	Hurricane struck Montserrat.
1937	Presidential Legislative Councils were reconstituted.
1940	Dominica was separated from the Leeward Islands Colony and grouped with the Windward Islands.
1950	Two severe hurricanes struck Antigua and Barbuda in the space of 12 days, causing great damage. Anguilla was struck by one and suffered severely. Severe earth tremors in Nevis and St. Kitts.

### Chapter 3 : Administration

The present Federal Constitution of the Leeward Islands dates from an Imperial Act of 1871 under which the Leeward Islands Colony was constituted, consisting then of five Presidencies, namely, Antigua, with Barbuda and Redonda; St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla; Montserrat; Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. Dominica by her own wish ceased to be a Presidency of the Leeward Islands in 1940 and became a separate Colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands.

The Colony now consists of the four Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. There is one Governor, his representatives in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla being styled Administrators and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, Commissioners (see also page 132).

The Colony has a Federal Executive Council and a General Legislative Council. The former consists of six *ex-officio* members, one official and one nominated member appointed by the Governor, and six elected members. The nominated member is one of the two nominated members appointed by the Governor to the General Legislative Council. The six elected members are representative members of the General Legislative Council, elected by the unofficial members of that Council, two from each of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and one from each of the Presidencies of Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands.

The General Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, six *ex-officio* official members, two other official members appointed by the Governor, two nominated members appointed by the Governor from amongst the nominated members of the Presidential

**Legislative Councils**, and 13 representative members elected by the **unofficial members** of the **Presidential Legislative Councils** from amongst their elected members. There are five representative members each from the **Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla**, two from the **Presidency of Montserrat** and one from the **Presidency of the British Virgin Islands**.

Each **Presidency** has an **Executive and Legislative Council**. The composition of the **Presidential Executive Councils** is as follows:

#### *Executive Councils*

*Antigua*: three *ex-officio* members, three elected members elected by the unofficial members of the **Legislative Council**, and one nominated member appointed by the **Governor** from amongst the nominated members of the **Legislative Council**.

*St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*: three *ex-officio* members, four elected members elected by the unofficial members of the **Legislative Council**, and one nominated member appointed by the **Governor** from amongst the nominated members of the **Legislative Council**.

*Montserrat*: three *ex-officio* members, two elected members elected by the unofficial members of the **Legislative Council**, and one nominated member appointed by the **Governor** from amongst the nominated members of the **Legislative Council**.

*British Virgin Islands*: one *ex-officio* member, and two official and three unofficial members appointed by the **Governor** from amongst the members of the **Legislative Council**.

The composition of the **Presidential Legislative Councils** is as follows:

#### *Legislative Councils*

*Antigua*: the **Administrator** as **President**, two official members appointed by the **Governor**, eight elected members, and three nominated members appointed by the **Governor**.

*St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla*: the **Administrator** as **President**, two *ex-officio* members, eight elected members, and three nominated members appointed by the **Governor**.

*Montserrat*: the **Commissioner** as **President**, two *ex-officio* members, five elected members, and two nominated members appointed by the **Governor**.

*British Virgin Islands*: the **Commissioner** as **President**, two officials appointed by the **Governor**, six elected members, and two nominated members appointed by the **Governor**.

The elected members form a majority on the **General Legislative and Presidential Legislative Councils**, and universal adult suffrage exists in all the **Presidencies**.

The Presidential Legislative Councils have concurrent legislative powers with the General Legislative Council on specified subjects, insofar as their Ordinances are not repugnant to the Acts of the latter.

In Antigua, there is the "Committee system", whereby the three elected members on the Presidential Executive Council preside over three committees of the Legislative Council which deal with trade and production, social services, and public works and communications. The committees are consulted on all questions of policy and the chairmen work in close contact with the relevant Government Departments. There is a slightly different system in the Presidencies of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands, where the "Member system" operates. Under this system the elected members on the Presidential Executive Councils hold a quasi-ministerial, but advisory, status and work in close contact with Government Departments grouped under the three headings abovementioned.

It was announced in December, 1954, that revised constitutions, granting full ministerial status, would be introduced in 1955. It was also announced at the same time that the Federation of the Leeward Islands was to be abolished, the four Presidencies of the Leeward Islands becoming separate Colonies administered in a manner similar to the Windward Islands.

The Governor normally resides in Angitua but usually makes two visits each year to each of the four Presidencies. The business of the Federal Government is carried out by the Secretariat and by the Audit, Judicial, Legal, Police and Treasury Departments.

#### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

In the City of St. John's, Antigua, there is a municipal body called the City Commissioners, which administers city affairs. It is composed partly of officials and partly of unofficials. In the districts, supervision of public health matters is entrusted to a body called the Country Board of Health. The City Commissioners were, however, to be abolished with effect from the 1st January, 1955, and a new Central Board of Health was to be created to undertake the public health duties formerly performed by the City Commissioners and the Country Board of Health. The remaining duties of the City Commissioners were to be undertaken by Government Departments.

In St. Kitts, there is a Central Board of Health, assisted by various District Boards of Health.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Standard imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

## Chapter 5: Reading List

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- A List of the Birds known from Antigua, B.W.I.*, by STUART T. DANFORD. Antigua Government Printing Office, 1933.
- Geology of Antigua*, by K. W. EARLE. Antigua Government Printing Office, 1923.
- The Sugar Cane Soils of Antigua*, by F. HARDY, J. A. McDONALD and G. RODRIGUES. Trinidad Government Printing Office, 1933.
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